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Search is on for
summer shoes

Page 16



北京青年报
BEIJING YOUTH DAILY



Blend
of East
Asian Art

Pages 12-13



Footsteps of
the sage's
followers

Page 20

S China submerged

By Huang Daohen

Residents in Sanshui district of Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, could only exit their home on boat Wednesday.

As of press time, the death toll from floods and rainstorms in the south rose to 176. Another 43 million people were affected.

The provincial flood control headquarters in Guangdong Province said downpours and floods ravaged 21 cities since May 25, resulting in 5.28 billion yuan (US \$765 million) worth of damages to infrastructure.

Huizhou City was the worst hit, with its losses at an estimated 1 billion yuan.

Water levels in the swollen rivers of Beijiang and Xijiang remained dangerously high due to more rains and lunar tides.

A total of 116 reservoirs reported water levels higher than the danger lines, said the provincial headquarters.



IC Photo

Top driver struck, killed by trailer tow hook

Top racing driver Xu Lang was killed when a trailer tow hook struck him in the face during a rally in Russia, race organizers said in a statement Wednesday.

Xu was killed Tuesday during the fifth leg of the Transoriental Rally, the statement said. The incident occurred as Xu was helping to pull another vehicle out of the mud.

The towing cable broke, striking Xu hard in the face, it said.

(AFP) Xu Lang Xinhua Photo



Page 4

Quest for Cup
ends in tears

Page 7

Alatai ends official
income secrecy

Page 8

From Wales to
London for Sichuan

Page 10

Clubs won't
change for Games

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Energy-saving bulb project given green light

By Zheng Lu

This week is the 2008 Energy-Saving Week. As part of the city's green events, the Beijing Municipal Commission's Department of Public Information is launching its Green Lights Project to get green light bulbs into city homes.

The commission has organized suppliers to sell four million energy-saving lamps (ESL) in 477 communities throughout the city's four central districts, Qiu Ting, an officer in the department, said. Another 1 million energy-saving lamps will be offered in Olympic areas and the public service sections.

Residents from Dongcheng, Xicheng, Xuanwu and Chongwen districts only need to pay 1 yuan, 10 percent of the energy-saving lamp's price, to buy up to five lamps for each household. The other 90 percent of the price is subsidized by the central government, the municipal government and district governments, which cover 50, 30 and 10 percent respectively.

Bulb distributors will stay for two days at each community and will cover 10 communities every two days. The residents' committee



Communities will handle bulb distribution.

Photo by Zheng Lu

of each community will post an announcement on the community bulletin board before the event.

"Five energy-saving lamps are not enough for my family," Li Zhenyi, a resident in the Dongzhongjie community, said. She said that she just bought these bulbs to take home and test. If her family likes the bulbs, she will buy more. "I don't care about the price. The bulb saves a lot of power throughout the year, so the price is not expensive," Li said.

Residents are required to carry their resi-

dence booklets and sign off beside their room number when buying the subsidized bulbs. Inhabitants can buy more bulbs, but will need to pay the full price.

Residents will not be eligible for bulb purchase if the community they live in does not match their registered residence. "The only problem now is that the household numbers the government gave us are sometimes different from what the neighborhood committee has on file. We may not always take enough bulbs," Osram's national sales supervisor Hu told *Beijing Today*.

A second round of subsidized ESL bulb sales will be conducted for residents who miss the first round, Chen Dai, an officer of the commission's Business Department, said. "Many residents are excited about the sales They want to know the exact time when the bulb sellers will come to their communities," Chen said.

Lighting makes up 12 percent of Beijing's total energy consumption, according to statistics from the commission. Compared with the incandescent lamp, an energy-saving 10-watt bulb can save 240 kilowatt-hours of energy.

The move to a smoke-free office

By Zhang Dongya

A total of 40 enterprises home and abroad, including Coca-Cola (China) and General Motors joined the Smoke-free Worksite Project and declare their workplaces smoke-free.

A consortium of Chinese and US partners that supported a smoke-free Olympics and the smoking ban that took effect May 1 started the project last Thursday.

The Chinese Preventive Medicine Association (CPMA), the Chinese Anti-Cancer Association, the National Tobacco Control Office and the American Cancer Society formed the executive committee of the initiative.

These associations and their supporters encourage companies to enact 100 percent smoke-free policies.

Among the companies which signed into the declaration are seven domestic enterprises and hospitals, including Beijing Cancer Hospital, Beijing Chaoyang Hospital and Beijing Aimer Lingerie.

Shanghai Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceuticals, Dow Chemical (China) Investment and Beijing Aimer Lingerie spoke about their experiences in implementing and benefits from promoting a smoke-free workplace.

The committee said it will continue to recruit companies and provide resources to help enact and comply with smoke-free policies. It will provide training and toolkits to help staff give up smoking. They will also invite related experts to evaluate their environment and release the results via media.

"The companies involved will be 100 percent smoke-free within two or three years, so as to provide a safe and healthy environment for their employees," Cai Jiming, secretary-general of CPMA, said.

The project will be enforced in Beijing in 2008 in its initial stage, followed by Shanghai in 2009 and Guangzhou in 2010, and from there will spread throughout the country.

Smoke-free work sites are gaining popularity around the world. In 2004, Ireland became the first country to forbid smoking at all work sites. Smoke-free legislation has been passed in a number of countries, including New Zealand, Italy, Spain and France.

Brief news

Quake costs country US\$73 bln

Direct economic losses from last month's Sichuan Province earthquake could reach 400 to 500 billion yuan, the State Information Center reported.

The overall impact on the national economy, however, was likely to be minor. The center said in a report published Wednesday that the quake might reduce economic growth by 0.1 percent. The losses may be offset rebuilding costs, which could raise fixed asset investment growth by 1.1 percent.

Quake check a tall order for Beijing's big buildings

Beijing has checked 58 skyscrapers and other tall buildings to ensure they are quake proof – including the uniquely shaped National Stadium and the leaning towers of China Central Television. The committee will release the results of the building checks soon.

First organized group travels to US

The first organized travel group to the US departed Tuesday from Beijing, Shanghai and Guangdong.

The group consisted of 250 tourists and marks the beginning of Approved Destination Status (ADS) in the US. The Chinese government granted ADS May 15. Currently more than 130 nations and areas have ADS.

(By Han Manman)

Postal gunman part of training



Two "robbers" entered the savings office Wednesday afternoon in the Sanlihe Post Office. One pointed a gun at the security guard and ordered him not to move, and the other went to the counter to force the cashier to hand over all the money. Their assault was part of a training exercise organized by the Xicheng District Public Security Sub-bureau to simulate a robbery scenario.

Inter-family organ transplants allowed

By Jackie Zhang

Kidney transplants between patients of two different families now is legal, Huang Jiefu, vice minister of health, said last Friday. The news came on the day of the third China transplant patients' sports meet and the second organ donation commemoration day.

Huang said the decision was made on the fourth conference of the Organ Transplant Committee (OTC) last month. "Related documents have already been issued to 164 hospitals which are qualified for transplant operations," Huang said.

But Huang said the living kinsfolk transplants should be promoted, pointing to an overall lack of medical resources and transplant experience in the country.

The kidney transplant case involving He Yiwen and He Zhigang attracted media focus

at the end of 2007. The Regulations on Human Organ Transplantation issued last May required that living donors must be the patient's spouse, linear relative or relative within three generations. Other donors must demonstrate evidence which closely linked them with the patient. Many people thought that patients from different families were not qualified for transplant surgery according to the regulation.

Huang said the country strictly limits living organ donor transplants. "In Singapore, France and the US, it is flexible. In China, we have detailed rules for consent. For example, if the living donor is the patient's foster child or parent, they must have lived together and provide evidence of such." Huang said the strict regulations were to deter organ trade.

Huang said that the regulations may be

revised over the next five years.

The country lacks the resources to meet the needs of the 1 to 1.5 million patients who require transplants every year.

"Victims of traffic accident may be a large resource for volunteer donors. If 10 percent of the traffic accidents victims could donate organs each year, the situation in the country would be much better," Huang said. A national transplantation system, including administration system and donors' registration system, distribution systems, will be established, he said.

He also touched on the relative issues of how to legislate procedures for brain dead patients. The definition of brain death had been discussed for over 20 years. "Medical professionals finally have had a common understanding of brain death, but it will still take time before related laws develop," he said.

Sichuan bank buys Nike sneakers with quake money

By Huang Daochen

A bank in quake-hit Mianyang, Sichuan Province, was found to have used relief funds to buy 28,500 yuan worth of running shoes imported from the US for its employees, the National Audit Office (NAO) said in a recent statement posted on its Web site.

The Fucheng branch of ICBC (Industrial and Commercial Bank of China), the country's largest bank, bought 56 pairs of Nike running shoes for its workers at the end of May, but faked

the invoices by saying they had ordered umbrellas, rubber boots and raincoats, the statement said.

The branch said last week that the shoes were bought to protect its employees, as some had sprained their ankles while evacuating during aftershocks. The branch required all staff to wear sports shoes during the period after the quake and decided to buy the shoes using "special earthquake funds."

It has returned the funds, and the director of the branch has

been suspended.

Another investigation by the audit office revealed that in some areas, people collected in the name of quake relief funds by sending text messages to mobile users and asking them to remit donations to specific bank accounts.

Some people already donated to these "fundraising" accounts, NAO said.

NAO said it brought in the public security departments to investigate, and some bank accounts were frozen by the police.

Misappropriation of funds allocated to help the victims in the quake zone has been a huge concern. As of press time, the government earmarked 23.61 billion yuan for relief funds, while domestic and foreign donations totaled 44.85 billion yuan in cash and goods.

Last Sunday, the government legislated a new procedure that requires local governments, NGOs and public utilities to make public all information about donated funds and materials.

Online Olympic nuptials may face virtual traffic jam

(Xinhua) — Registry authorities will open a new online marriage booking service on Friday in anticipation of a boom in couples wanting to tie the knot on the opening day of the Olympic Games.

But officials are recommending they book in person at county or district civil affairs bureaus to avoid a virtual traffic jam.

Couples wanting to register August 8 as their wedding date can apply from June 20 to August 5. They will receive marriage certificates on August 8 with the booking form, a Beijing Municipal Civil Affairs Bureau official said on Wednesday.

They can also book on the Beijing Municipal Marriage and Adoption Registration Services Web site or the Beijing Municipal Civil Affairs Bureau Web site from July 7 to August 5, he said.

Foreigners, overseas Chinese and citizens of Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan, can also benefit from the service.

Chinese couples are keen to tie the knot on an auspicious date. August 8, 2008, or 8-8-08, is more than just a date: it marks both the opening of the Beijing Olympics and is considered a lucky day for marriage since the number consists exclusively of eights.

Eight is the most auspicious number in Chinese culture, and believe it brings fortune and happiness.

"They might be better off registering in person for their own peace of mind because off the possible Internet traffic jam after the online registration opens," Zhai Jianyong, Municipal Marriage Registration Service Center director, said.

Greenpeace anti e-waste from the US



A Greenpeace activist hangs a banner on a container ship that was carrying toxic e-waste from the US to Hong Kong last Saturday. Greenpeace said that after months of research, they determined that the container was destined for Sanshui, Guangdong Province in the Chinese mainland, meaning that – under Chinese law – the import was illegal. The Hong Kong Environmental Protection Department and Hong Kong Customs have agreed to the demands of Greenpeace and put the containers on hold.

CFP Photo

Enterprises' promised donations yet to arrive

By Annie Wei

Eleven enterprises have reportedly not followed through on their donation commitments made when the quake hit Sichuan Province last month, according to a list the Ministry of Commerce released.

As of last Friday, the companies still had not donated the amount of money they promised. The companies promised 200 million yuan, but only delivered 15 million according to data the commerce ministry collected from provinces and cities.

The list includes Wal-Mart, Google China, Texas Instruments, Unilever China, Bertelsmann, Mary Kay China, Eli Lilly, Auchon, Shanxi Haixen Steel Group, China Steel from Taiwan and Excegroup.

China Steel promised to donate 100 million yuan, but according to the list, has yet to donate anything.

Wal-Mart China promised to donate 17 million yuan. The list said it donated 4 million yuan in cash and 1 million yuan of materials. Mou

Mingming, a Wal-Mart spokesperson, told *China Business News* that the company donated 17 million yuan to re-build the quake-hit area, but the remaining money is tied up until project and procedure matters are out of the way and the rebuild begins.

Cui Jin, Google's spokesman, said its promised 17 million yuan will be delivered, but the company is still deciding to which organizations it will donate the remaining 12 million yuan.

Unilever said it donated 6 million yuan and some transactions may be tangled up in the banks.

According to Ministry of Commerce's list, these companies have donated 3 billion in cash and 7 billion yuan of materials.

Shanxi Haixen Steel responded its 12 million yuan donation, more than it originally promised, has been sent out. The company sent copies of its donation records to the Ministry of Commerce.

'Running' teacher fired for abandoning students in quake

By Han Manman

The teacher who fled his class leaving a room of students behind during the Sichuan Province earthquake was stripped of his teaching certificate and fired on Monday.

Fan Meizhong was a Chinese teacher at a private high school in Dujiangyan city, one of the worst-hit areas, who became nicknamed "Running Fan" after the incident.

Fan said he received a call from school principal Qing Guangya who told him the school received the official circular to nullify his certificate and fire him. Fan said he would sue the department which canceled his license.

He said there was no law that said a teacher could have his or her license revoked for abandoning students in an emergency.

"We learned from the school that he was dismissed," Wang

Xuming, a spokesman for the Ministry of Education, said Monday. "But it was a decision made by the school itself."

He denied media reports that the ministry sent a circular to the local education authorities to disqualify and fire Fan.

The Dujiangyan educational department also denied reports that it sent out a circular to fire Fan.

"I think it might be instinctual to run for safety in the earthquake, but he should not make those statements. They were inappropriate," Qing Guangya said in a previous interview.

Qing also said that Fan, a graduate of Beijing University, worked hard as a teacher and his students liked him for his "independent" thinking.

Ten days after the quake, Fan wrote a post at tianyaclub.com to recall his experience in the quake and said he did not regret aban-

doning the children.

"In a moment of life-and-death, the only person I would give up my life for would be my daughter. I would not do it for anyone else, even my mother," he wrote.

His comment attracted the ire of the virtual world followed by society at large. He was called the most "shameless" teacher in China, though some admired his courage to say what he thought.

A song was composed about "Running Fan" and broadcast on the television channel to a background mix of a cartoon of the teacher running away and real-life shots of Fan.

The earthquake in Sichuan on May 12 left 69,172 people dead as of Tuesday noon, including thousands of children after their school buildings collapsed on them. Fan's school remained intact in the earthquake and no students perished.

Chinese soccer wraps world cup in tears

By Huang Daohen

The final score was 2-1 and the national team again lost the pivotal game to Iraq during the 2010 World Cup qualifier last Saturday in Tianjin. The defeat destroyed China's last chance of qualifying for the World Cup Finals in South Africa.

What is wrong with Chinese soccer? Officials, players and the public are reflecting on the defeat.

Furious fans

"Xiake! Xiake! Xiake (sack)!"

Fans shouted and were reduced to tears after Iraq took the lead and then gathered outside after the match angrily calling for the entire Chinese Football Association (CFA) to be dismissed.

The 30,000 fans who paid to watch a second defeat quickly turned on those they deemed responsible after the national team was eliminated at home from the 2010 World Cup.

Roberto Chen, 27, a loyal fan of Chinese soccer, was among the fans at the Tianjin Olympic Sports Centre stadium last Saturday.

"We are numb. I won't cry any more," Chen said. He asked for a leave from work that day and went to Tianjin for the deciding game in which China lost 2-1 to Iraq during the 2010 World Cup qualifier.

"What's wrong with Chinese soccer? China has over 1.3 billion people! Why can't we choose 11 men to win against Australia, Iraq or Qatar?" he said.



Iraqi national team cheering for the victory after the match.

China's only hope now of making it to another World Cup final is to host the international soccer gala, Chen said.

Fans in China, like Chen, are always negative when it comes to the domestic soccer scene. They are rightly upset at failure and have joined forces in a "blame game," with some claiming that they will give up on the sport entirely.

Shallow report

The day after the national team was defeated, major media gave full coverage to the event, among which was a report from the Jilin-based New Culture View showing only one bold headline which aroused public anger.

With no specific text or description of the event or even a final score mentioned, the report displayed a mere 10 Chinese characters in its title saying, "National team defeated again. We have nothing to say."

The report was rated by netizens as the best review for the current national soccer team.

Feng Yongyan, sports editor from the New Culture View, said the report was an attempt to express a feeling of helplessness. "The national team is no longer a concern, and we don't want to do any coverage," Feng said.

Financial fiasco

Amid blaming the soccer industry's system, many believe that the industry will have a few tough years as a result of the losing game.

"This is the worst World Cup qualifying failure in terms of commercial implications in China's soccer history," Yan Qiang, deputy editor of Titan Sports, said.

Domestic media have been calculating the financial fallout with Web site Sohu.com putting the figure at 100 million yuan, combining the possible drainage of sponsorship money and the loss of other potential revenues.

"There's no way to put a concrete figure on it because no proper accounting exists in this industry," Yan said. "But fewer corporate sponsors will be willing to invest in the national team in the foreseeable future."

Coca-Cola terminated its partnership with the CFA last year after nearly 15 years of cooperation, a move recognized as a sign of impatience among big-spending multinational sponsors.

Yan claimed the knock-out effect will spread into the Chinese Super League, which has shown signs of recovery in the 2008 season.

"I predict the CFA will have a tough time selling their property at a reasonable price, including both the national team and the domestic league," he added.

Foreign coach policy

For the current situation of the soccer industry, the CFA should take

all the responsibility, Wang Jing, a senior commentator with the Beijing News said.

"We were not killed by other stronger teams. We were killed by ourselves," Wang said, "We made stupid mistakes in selecting coaches."

Wang said the trend of employing foreign coaches swept through Asia when Japan and South Korea hired top quality European personnel. These two countries have subsequently grown into soccer power houses.

Following suit, the CFA also adopted the policy of employing foreign coaches. According to Xinhua, 57 foreigners were hired as coaches for either the national team or soccer clubs in China.

"However, the policy turned out to be a failure," Wang said.

"CFA officials only focus on how to move up the political ladder rather than how to develop at a grassroots level," he added.

The super league

Match-fixing, bribe-taking and gambling have been evident in Chinese soccer since the start of the professional league in 1994.

In 2004, a super league of the country's top 12 teams was formed in the hopes it would rebuild the event's image. But according to a survey in 2004 carried out by the CFA, more than half of the players had been seen taking part in illegal gambling.

The problems did not clear up in 2006 when the CFA boss Xie Yalong threatened that he would shut down the super league if game fixing and gambling continued.

"We can not be gambling on matches. Gambling is the biggest cancer facing Chinese soccer. Because of betting on matches, there is now the bribing of referees and players," Xie said.

Now the CFA and the Chinese police have set up a joint task force to combat the problems.

A 20-year project

Organizing and building a contending soccer team to compete among the best in the world will take at least a couple of generations once the country commits its resources to such endeavor, Zhou Wenyuan, sports commentator, said.

Zhou suggested that organized soccer must be started at the grassroots level and develop organizational skills as in the school system.

"Of course, China must also develop a real professional league comparable to that of Japan and South Korea," Zhou said.

"If China follows such a basic plan, China's soccer team will take about 20 years before we can be a serious contender for the world cup," he said.



Foreign coaches put under the spotlight after the defeat.



The defeat destroys the last chance for China to go to the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.

Xinhua Photos

Mixed reaction over London's handover plan

(AP) – Dancers will perform hip hop and ballet routines during London's eight-minute presentation at the closing ceremony of the Beijing Olympics, the official handover to organizers of the 2012 Games.

Dancers from the Royal Opera House, street dance theater ZooNation and CandoCo, a company that integrates dancers with and without disabilities, will take part in the ceremony August 24 in Beijing's Olympic Stadium after London Mayor Boris Johnson receives the Olympic flag.

"He will wave the flag six times and when he does so, the eyes of the world will then move to London," London 2012 chairman Sebastian Coe said Monday. "And we have that large and collective sigh that goes out, 'Oh, my goodness, it's London's turn

next.' But we say it with massive and great excitement."

Further details of the ceremony have been kept under wraps.

"We're still refining the plan," Bill Morris, London 2012's director of culture, ceremonies and education, said. "We are not going to reveal any more of the plans today. The three dance troupes are certainly an anchor throughout the performance, but it's not the only element."

Giant screens will be erected in The Mall adjacent to Buckingham Palace in London for people to watch the closing ceremony. Cities and towns around England will also have giant screens to watch the closing ceremony, and local councils throughout Britain will be encouraged to display special handover flags August 24 that are Union Jack-inspired versions of the London 2012 logo.

Controversies aroused

The decision to show break-dancing skills in the closing ceremony was viewed as controversial both at home and in the UK.

Patrick Marnion, a *Daily Mail* critic, said the ZooNation show was one of the "liveliest, most exciting, youthful addition of the West End in many a year," on the news Web site.

But to some, the urban dance squad has nothing to do with the UK. In their minds, hip-hop is essentially from the US.

"The visual language belongs to America and it is something Britain has no particular purchase on," Mail Online citing branding expert Peter York.

Chinese experts were also divided on their views on Zoo-

nation's show at the upcoming Beijing Olympics.

Ou Jianping, the director of Foreign Dance Studies at the Dance Research Institute of the China Arts Academy, said he was not surprised at the London's Olympic Organizers' choice.

"The organizers' choice anticipates the future taste of London," Beijing-based newspaper *The First* cited Ou as saying. "Though the Royal Ballet is elegant, it will not represent the popular taste of the British."

Zheng Xiaojiu, an Olympic researcher with Renmin University, held different views. "The UK is renowned for the culture of gentlemen, and therefore hip hop can not show the depth of its culture." (Agencies)

One-day torch relay confirmed in Tibet

(AFP) – The Olympic torch will travel to Tibet tomorrow but only for a day, the organizing committee behind the Beijing Games said, citing adjustments due to last month's earthquake.

"After the Sichuan earthquake on May 12, the Beijing Olympic organizing committee has carried out adjustments to the domestic legs of the torch relay," the committee said in a statement on its Web site on Wednesday.

"The Tibet Autonomous Region leg of the relay will be on June 21, with the relay taking place in Lhasa," it went on, referring to the Himalayan region's capital.

Xinhua reported earlier that the government had scrapped its plans to take the torch through Tibet for three days due to the quake.

The torch is currently traveling through Xinjiang for a three-day, four-city tour.

Joint search for gas in East China Sea

(AP) – Japan and China have agreed to jointly develop part of the gas deposits in the East China Sea, a major breakthrough in a long-standing dispute between the two countries, the Chinese government announced Wednesday.

Tokyo and Beijing will jointly explore undersea gas deposits at two of the main potential sites in disputed areas of the East China Sea, their first concrete agreement on the ownership and exploration rights to the undersea resources, the Foreign Ministry said.

The agreement is part of recent efforts by the two countries to boost relations, which have warmed considerably in the past two years.

The deal allows Japan to invest in and claim proportional profits from several projects at the Chunxiao fields, which Japan calls Shirakaba, Japan's Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

China groups seen as timely boost to US tourism

(Reuters) – A group of 200 tourists from China got a cabinet-level official welcome in the US this week – a sign the US tour industry hopes millions more will follow in their footsteps.

US Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez will head up a Washington waterfront reception on Thursday for the first tourists to take advantage of a bilateral agreement allowing packaged group tourism to the US from China.

Until now, the 300,000 Chinese citizens who visited the US each year came only on student and business visas or to visit family members residing in the US.

A negotiated deal under which the government agreed to permit group tourism to the US and allow US tourist destinations to market themselves in China is expected by 2011 to double to 600,000.

Beijing lights up the night



Night life has become popular with the flood of foreign influence.

(The New York Times) – Beaming across the smoggy night sky like twin hedonist bat signals, the searchlights at the entrance of the giant dance club GT Banana also illuminated a small brass plaque in the doorway that reads "precious your life – say no to drugs."

Hurrying inside toward the throbbering techno music on a recent Friday night, Chen Ping, a 26-year-old graphic designer, chuckled at the sobering warning. "The person who thought of that is smart," he said. "Young Chinese are looking for an escape because they work so hard. Maybe it is good to remind them not to lose their way."

Bartenders within the multi-level club were juggling Champagne bottles topped with sparklers while revelers lounged on white banquets, drinking Chivas Regal and green tea. On the dance floor, which is designed to bounce underfoot, hundreds of sweaty men and women wriggled to deafening Mandarin pop

remixes under a downpour of bubbles. The Macarena, or something close to it, was on full display. Not to be outdone, a dozen young men giddily pushed through the throng in a conga line. Others stood and stared, in awe of the sensory overload.

Not long ago, Beijing night life mostly meant private dinner parties for the powerful, alcohol-soaked karaoke bars or visits to "lady massage" parlors. Universities are still known to lock the dormitory doors around midnight.

But as the wave of global bankers, entertainment entrepreneurs and foreign college students has flooded the city, and development driven by the Olympic Games here this summer demolishes ancient neighborhoods and traditional inhibitions, the capital's new monied class has come out to party.

"Fifteen years ago, everyone went to sleep at 9 pm," Wang Xiaodong, a 36-year-old professional disc jockey, said. "What

could I do? Where could I go? There were no parties, nothing."

The country's market reforms also opened Beijing's cultural armor, and foreigners began introducing techno music to locals hungry for sounds from the outside world.

By the end of the 90's, all-night parties on the Great Wall were drawing hundreds of Chinese and foreign ravers. The gatherings were banned in 2006 after reports depicting them as "wild orgies" surfaced in China's state-controlled news media.

Still, Beijing's appetite for club culture and techno beats continued to grow, in part fueled by the information and speed on the Internet.

"Before, there was no way to get this music, and I had to find it through friends who brought it from Europe," said Wang, who organized some of the Great Wall parties. "Now we can go online and hear the newest Berlin tracks at the same time as the Germans."

Jin Shu, a public relations executive who studied at Oxford before returning to Beijing five years ago, is thrilled that the capital is catching up to London and Ibiza. "Electronica is now more popular than hip-hop," he said. "The Chinese have more of a desire to see and compare themselves to overseas night life, and this is what they are hearing."

Today, the Chinese seem to be discovering simultaneously the last 40 years of pop music, not only house and techno beats but classic rock, salsa and punk. The chaotic fusion of influences gives Beijing night life a creative, if hectic, tang.

"It's the ultimate post-modernist laboratory," said Dan Stephenson, 31, a Salt Lake City native who moved to Beijing six years ago and created the Syndicate, which puts on drum 'n' bass parties at bars and clubs.

"The same guy who was riding a bike 10 years ago is now driving his new Ferrari to a club and drinking Champagne," he said.

China, US pledge further cooperation

China and the US yesterday formally announced the launch of talks that would result in more transparency and certainty for US investors in China, as well as options for settling investment disputes with China.

As part of the US-China Strategic Economic Dialogue, the two countries signed a 10-year environment and energy cooperation agreement, a deal that moves forward an agreement from last year to cooperate in these areas in the wake of rising oil prices and concern over the environment.

"Due to the complicated, changeable nature of the current global economic and financial situation, both China and the US are facing a lot of challenges. Holding the 4th SED under such circumstances will have special

significance for us to enhance mutual strategic trust, deepen economic and trade cooperation, and respond jointly to challenges," visiting Chinese Vice Premier Wang Qishan said at the opening session of the meeting.

The two countries also established a Transportation Forum intended to identify the infrastructure needed to support various modes of transportation and to enable the free flow of trade between the US and China.

The launch of negotiations for a Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) was informally announced earlier yesterday, and officials said they expect these talks to continue well after the Bush administration leaves office in January.

"I'm confident that with our joint efforts,

the SED will play an increasingly important role," said Wang, who indicated that the SED would indeed continue after Bush leaves office.

Wang said it is important to avoid politicizing the trade issue, which complicates the matter.

He said that China has made solid progress in opening up its financial sector, in intellectual property rights protection, in product quality and food safety, in exchange rate system reform and in easing trade imbalance.

Owing to China's development level and the situation it faces, however, some problems will need a long time to solve, Wang admitted.

(Agencies)

Ericsson says it did not vie for China Mobile deal

(Reuters) – Swedish telecom equipment maker Ericsson said Wednesday it had not competed with Alcatel-Lucent for a US \$1 billion deal with China Mobile which the French group signed on Tuesday.

Ericsson CEO Carl-Henric Svanberg said the Swedish group had not been beaten to the deal, which is a framework agreement to provide mobile communication equipment and services.

"We weren't competing for that order," Svanberg told reporters at a meeting in Stockholm.

Country willing to take on climate change

By Jackie Zhang

Chinese people are concerned about climate change and willing to adjust their lifestyles to make a difference, according to "The Impact of the Chinese Consumers Perception of Climate Change on Business," a survey conducted by MPG, the global media network of Havas Media, that was released Monday.

"The key objective of this research study is to understand the impact of climate change on business," Paul McNeill, CEO of MPG, said.

Similar research has been conducted in the US, UK, France, Spain, Brazil, Germany, India and Mexico.

The study has touched on key comprehension aspects like whether customers are willing to pay more for environmentally-friendly products and who consumers believe is responsible for the problem: government, consumers or corporations.

According to the research, 46 percent of Chinese respondents can be classified as eco-concerned. This group is very focused on the issue, and China's is the largest trailing only behind Brazil, Mexico and India.

The results showed that 91 percent of Chinese people agree climate change will affect them and their family, and 93 percent believe they can contribute to solving the problem, making China the second most positive country in terms of its willingness to change.

The same group of respondents said they would rather buy from companies that are trying to reduce their contribution to global warming.

"It is clear that climate change and the corresponding shift in consumers' relationships with brands represents one of the major challenges for all brands during the next decade," Alfonso Rodes, CEO of Havas Media, said.

Lufthansa unveils new Star Chef for China

By Li Jing

Lufthansa announced China World Hotel's chef Max Yan as its new Star Chef, whose new dishes will be presented on flights between China and Germany from this August.

Max Yan and Lufthansa took one year to design and develop the dishes. The final exclusive dishes, chosen from 150 possibles based on customer feedback, are available in six menus for first, business and economy class passengers.

Lufthansa Star Chefs has operated since 1998, collaborating with a selection of world-class chefs and transforming their signature dishes into on-board Star Chef fare.

Sipo investigates Microsoft monopoly



The government's probe into Microsoft behavior has made its supporters concerned.

By Huang Daohen

Microsoft is being investigated by the nation's State Intellectual Property Office (Sipo) over alleged monopolist activity, the Shanghai Securities News reported.

Sipo has teamed up with other agencies to investigate Microsoft's market position in the country to make sure it is not abusing it, the report said.

The office announced it will investigate Microsoft's pricing after concerns that legitimate copies of Windows and Office were being marked up to maximize profits as the country moves toward use of legally-licensed software.

It may file legal action when the country's anti-monopoly legislation takes effect in

August, the report said.

"Microsoft Windows retails at 1,000-2,000 yuan and its Office software suite at 4,000-5,000 yuan, which together is more than the cost of a computer," an official surnamed Li from Sipo said.

"It is not right for an international company to use its monopoly to sell software at outrageous prices while criticizing the people's awareness of copyright law," he said.

The officer said a working committee will investigate whether Microsoft has imposed discriminatory pricing in China and whether it is bundling its Windows operating system in an unfair manner.

The country has come under repeated criticism over piracy rates in recent years

from the Business Software Alliance (BSA), a group founded by major software firms like Microsoft to push for increased action to defend software.

Statistics from the BSA estimate up to 80 percent of software in use in the country is pirated.

However, this activity could have provoked the current investigation by the State Administration of Industry and Commerce (SAIC), Fang Xingdong, a Chinese intellectual property lawyer, said.

"Microsoft's case has gone on like a saga in the European Union, and I think if SAIC is willing to investigate at all, it will have to expend a lot of resources and time," Fang said.

Bertelsmann to close all retail bookshops

By He Jianwei

Bertelsmann AG, a German media group, will close all 36 of its branded retail bookstore chains in 18 cities in China by the end of July. It and other booksellers face fierce competition from online sellers.

However, the group will not retreat from the Chinese market. After closing its bookstore chains, it will reinvest in other fast developing business such as media services to expand its footprint in China, the spokesman said Monday.

"The decision was made after a comprehensive strategic review and considerable efforts over many years," Yu Le, CEO of China Corporate Center, said.

The group will change a new marketing

strategy in China. "In January, the group set up an Asia fund of around US \$100 million, which is headquartered in Beijing," Yu said.

The growth of online book stores such as Joyo and Dangdang coupled with Bertelsmann's business model, which combined a book club with its bookstores, made it difficult for the group to retain customers.

The company said it struggled to adapt to the changing marketplace, where online bookstores now represent fiercer competition in China.

"We have invested a lot in management and finance ..., but the profits were lower than expected and unsustainable," Yu said.

Bertelsmann sells books through catalog delivery, bookstores and online stores. It

brought the "book club" system to China in 1997, by which it encourages customers to join its book club and gives readers membership discounts.

The method, which at first proved to be popular among office workers and teenagers, lost its appeal as online bookstores began to boom. The group had 1.5 million members in the club, but gradually lost its advantage.

"I joined the club in middle school, but I rarely bought books from Bertelsmann after I graduated from college. Compared with Joyo and Dangdang, the price of club books is much higher," Zhong Ni, 28, a former club member, said.

"The withdrawal of the club will be decided later in our next strategy review," Yu said.

Officials' property publicized to fight corruption

By Huang Daochen

The details of government officials' income and property in the Alatai area in Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region will be publicized to curb official corruption, the Xinhua sub-branch in Xinjiang reported.

The new regulation, issued by

the Alatai area government, aims to strengthen supervisory efforts. It requires all senior officials at the bureau level and ordinary civil servants who are in charge of property rights to declare their property and job-related incomes.

How to define property is one of the biggest obstacles in officials'

property declaration, Liu Xirong, a National People's Congress deputy, said. The regulation ruled that officials' bank deposits aside, other properties like houses, automobiles and stocks should also be declared as properties.

The properties will be released to the local media and

subject to public scrutiny, the regulation said.

In addition, the family members' incomes, if related to the officials', will also be covered under this regulation.

The government's move marks the first of its kind in China and comes amid the increasing demand

to fight corruption.

In 1995 and 2001, the central government released two circulaires trying to form a system of officials' property declaration, but the attempt fizzled due to inherent weaknesses in the system design and difficulties in the implementation.

Comment

A major move

Such a regulation marks a major step in fighting corruption. As people will now have a clear picture of officials' incomes, they can better supervise them and voice their objections.

- Bai Shuo, scholar

Lenient laws

I wonder how far this reg-

ulation can really go. Though the draft specifies the defining of the properties, there are gray incomes disguised by many corrupt officials.

Besides, China's law stipulates that if judicial departments don't have sufficient evidence to prove the accused official guilty, the maximum penalty for the crime of

Unknown Origin of Immense Amount of Property is five years. This has become the motive that has driven many officials into corruption.

- Jun Lee, editor

Spread the message

The model in Alatai should be expanded to other parts of the country, and form a national network to

curb corruption.

- Jeff Johnason, expat teacher
Too much pressure

I can't say whether the rule is effective or not. Don't you think the declaration is a violation of the officials' privacy? That puts officials under great pressure.

- Judie, counselor

Upgrade the system

China lacks a sound finance management system to supervise individual's property and deal with officials' corruption. China should build a more sophisticated system to manage property transactions and supervise the declaration process of officials' property.

- Shelley Wen, lawyer

Minors forbidden in the National Library arouses debate

By Li Fenghua

Last Sunday, the seven-year-old daughter of a Beijing citizen surnamed Ma was refused entry to the library by the staff of the National Library of China because the girl was under 18.

Children don't observe the regulations of the National Library of China and most of the books in the library are not suitable for them to read, so the library forbids them to enter, a staff member said.

"My daughter is a first-grade student and she is very curious about geography and history and just wanted to see books on these topics. We were stopped by a female worker when we stepped inside the library. She said that the National Library of China has regulations preventing minors under 18 from entering the library," Ma said.

After conversing with the staff, Ma still couldn't bring his daughter inside the building. "As a legal citizen of China, why does my daughter not have the right to enter a national library in her own country? I just can't understand!" Ma said.

According to the regulations of the National Library of China, middle school students and children with their parents are only allowed in on official holidays. They are forbidden outside official holidays on the supposition that minors do not obey the library rules and might disturb the other readers.

"We have our reasons for carrying out such regulations to ban minors. The regulation won't be altered for the time being. It may be revised after the second project of the National Library is finished," a library staff member said.



The National Library of China

Photo from Sina.com

Comment

No right to ban bookworms

There are no related laws and regulations in our country that entitle the National Library of China to deprive citizens of the right to pursue knowledge. As a public welfare institution, the National Library of China shouldn't refuse readers if they are Chinese citizens.

- Zhang Xingjian, lawyer at Zhonglun Wende lawyer's office

Reasonable regulation

It is understandable for the National Library of China to set such a regulation

for children since most of them can't understand the books stored in the library. A special library especially for kids should be constructed inside the library.

- Flower, a netizen

A library for all

The regulations of the National Library shouldn't be worked out by only the library staff since it's the library of all Chinese citizens. Regulations should be instituted after public discussion. It is a library for all citizens, not just some.

- Liter, a netizen

Library should attract the little ones

I don't understand why a library should exist if they refuse minors. Such public facilities as a library or museum should try its best to attract children. The future of a country is more promising only if all the children in the country are allowed to visit these institutions. I have seen a lot of young mothers in the US bring their babies to the library and the staff read colorful children's books to them. I envy those children who have a chance to grow up in a library or museum.

- Leiyang, a netizen from Heilongjiang

Brit teen walks to aid China

By Han Manman

Since the China Wenchuan earthquake occurred, assistance from international individual and community sources has been touching.

A British teenager who once lived in Deyang, Sichuan province, has set off on a 400-kilometer trek from his hometown in north Wales to London to raise money for the children in China's earthquake-stricken areas.

Sparked to help

Isaac Lewis is an 18-year-old boy who will attend Warwick University this September to study computer science.

After he heard that a major earthquake had occurred in Sichuan, where he once stayed for half

year, he felt shocked and vowed to do something to increase British awareness of the disaster and raise money to help those affected.

After establishing a Web site justgiving.com/walktolondon to attract donations in Britain, he decided to walk from his home to London beginning June 7. According to the plan, it will take 10 to 14 days to complete the journey.

Hoping to raise more than 3,000 pounds, Lewis said all the money he raises will go to the China Children's and Teenagers Fund, and will pay for rebuilding schools and orphanages and providing care for children injured or orphaned by the quake.

A tough trip

"My first two days were nice,

but the following days got worse as I began to develop some very bad blisters," Lewis said, adding that when he came to the hospital in Birmingham, the doctor found some large blisters and one was filled with blood. After he dressed them, the doctor told him that he should stop walking for a week.

So, Lewis has no choice but to rest until his feet recovered. "I hope to restart walking again as soon as possible," he said.

For Lewis, the one experience he noticed was the kindness of the people he met. "Many people stopped to donate money and in many villages, I had to knock on people's doors to ask for water. No one ever refused me. And many people let me stay in their

houses," Lewis said.

Deyang days

Lewis taught English on a six-month break in the decimated city of Deyang, which was not far from the epicenter of the earthquake.

"I worked as an English teacher. When I wasn't working I used to cycle and explore the city, relax in local restaurants, or go out with friends. I've got some great memories of Deyang, it's one of the places where I've been happiest," he said.

Lewis left many friends behind when he returned home, and said he was devastated when he turned on the news and saw places he knew that had been damaged and destroyed.

"It was shocking to see what

had happened to the city I loved. They were showing pictures of exactly where I had been and it was just chaos," he said.

He went straight to the Internet and e-mailed everyone he knew in China to see if they were alright. He got a quick response from most, telling him they were safe and receiving aid.

"As far as I know my friends in Deyang are OK. My school was quite new and wasn't too badly affected. However, I keep thinking of other people I met but didn't know so well, like the old woman who watched my bikes, the man with a *mianbao* stall, and I wonder if they're alright," Lewis said.

Lewis has so far received 2,055 pounds in donations.

Royal Ballet debuts *Manon*

By Li Fenghua

After its premiere in Beijing 10 years ago, the Royal Ballet returned this week with its long-running show *Manon* in the National Center for the Performing Arts as the headliner of the summer performance season at the National Center for the Performing Arts (NCPA) in Beijing.

"I came to Beijing once with another ballet troupe in 1999. This time I will perform in *Manon*, the most suitable act for me to perform before the Beijing audience. The dance for two performers in *Manon* is the cream of ballet," the lead-

ing actress of The Royal Ballet, Liana Benjamin, said.

Choreographed by Sir Kenneth MacMillan in 1974, *Manon* will end its three-day run in Beijing tonight. It is the most notable work of MacMillan and also the most famous show of The Royal Ballet. In the story, a young woman struggles between money and love and it is very moving.

Monica Mason, the inspector general of The Royal Ballet, played the lead role in *Sleeping Beauty* during her first visit to Beijing in 1983. "I am very excited to perform in the NCPA. Beijing is developing

very fast and has changed a lot since my first visit in 1983," she said.

An NCPA spokesperson said the Royal Ballet will not only perform but also provide training on ballet education and exchange their experiences with Chinese ballet performers.

The Royal Ballet has just signed a contract with the National Center for the Performing Arts for a long-term cooperation," Tony Hower, president of The Royal Ballet troupe leader said. "We will construct a long-term close relationship on arts, educa-

tion and ballet technology communication with the National Center for the Performing Arts."

The Royal Ballet will perform at the NCPA from June 18 to 26 with three classic ballet shows: *Manon*, *Sleeping Beauty* and *Mixed Program*. *Sleeping Beauty*, the most familiar ballet to the Chinese audiences, will be performed from June 21 to 23.

The Royal Ballet will also provide direction for three dancing workshops which are designed for art educators in Beijing. The workshops will last five days.



A scene from *Manon*
Photo provided by NCPA

Gasquet, Kuznetsova bound for China Open

By Huang Daochen

French tennis player Richard Gasquet and women's world number three player Kuznetsova are confirmed for this year's lineup at the China Open, set for September 20-28 at the Beijing Tennis Center, the event's organizing committee said Wednesday.

Gasquet who was upset by fellow Frenchman Marc Gicquel in the second round of the Ordina Open on Tuesday and the world number nine ranked, will be joined by famed Spanish player Tommy Robredo and women's world number nine competitor Dinara Safina, who won second place at this year's French Open.

The women's world ranked eighth and tenth players Anna Chakvetadze and Daniela Hantuchova will also make their first appearance at this year's event.

Together with the six players confirmed to compete in April are Andy Roddick, Fernando Gonzalez, Marcos Baghdatis, Ana Ivanovic, Jelena Jankovic and Agnes Szavay. The event this year has a lineup featuring six of the women's world top 10 players and three of the men's world top 10 players.

This year's men's and women's events will be held at the same time, which means all 88 matches will be finished in nine days, one week earlier than the previous tournaments, according to organizers.

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Israel celebrates 60th anniversary in Beijing

By Vinna Huang

The Israel Embassy celebrated Israel's 60th Independence Day Monday in Zhongshan Music Hall.

Israeli President Shimon Peres in his video opening speech spoke highly the government's timely and effective response to the disaster in Sichuan Province. The Israeli Ambassador to China Amos Nadai said in the speech that the Israeli people will never forget how China accepted many Jews during World War II.

Israel's Kamea Dance Company and the Disabled Persons' Performing Arts Troupe (DPPAT) performed together on stage as part of the celebration.

The dance troupe performs at the highest level to help each member overcome his or her own disabilities.



Actors from Kamea and DPPAT celebrate Israel's 60th Independence Day with embassy staff.

Photo provided by Israel Embassy

Bangladeshis eager to exchange art, culture

By Gan Tian

The Embassy of People's Republic of Bangladesh collaborated with the Folk Artist Association's Paper-cut Arts Council to hold "China Charm" and "Experience Bangladesh," two exhibitions which toured the Chaoyang Cultural Center on Tuesday.

Munshi Faiz Ahmad, ambassador of the Bangladesh Embassy, delivered a welcome speech. He said Bangladeshi people are fascinated by Chinese folk art and painting, and the show will help them experience more Chinese culture and share more of their own.

Faiyaz Murshid Kazi, first secretary

of the Bangladesh Embassy, gave a short introduction of Bangladesh and the cooperation prospect of Bangladesh-China.

Arham-Ul-Huq Chowdhury, a Bangladeshi artist, was invited to the event to exhibit his works. He presented Bangla Calligraphy in painting. The paintings featured imaginative depictions of Bangladeshi sayings like, "Placing a cow on the tree top, and drying it in the mouth," with a cow actually on top of a tree.

The event included martial arts performances, folk music and paper-cutting by Chinese artists and folk dances by Bangladeshi artists.

Yi In-chon, the minister of MCST, said at the press conference held last



A scene in the musical The King's Man

Photo provided by Korea Cultural Service China

Korean theater comes to Beijing

By Gan Tian

Meet in Beijing! Play in Korean Performance! opened this Wednesday to offer Beijingers a look at traditional Korean lifestyle.

The activity features music, dance, opera and theater and will continue until July 13. During this period, the National Center for Korean Traditional Performance Arts, the National Opera of Korea, Seoul Performing Art Company and Korean Arts Management Service will appear on the Chinese stage.

Meet in Beijing is hosted by the Chinese Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of the Republic of Korea (MCST) with the help of Korean Cultural Service China.

Yu In-chon, the minister of MCST, said at the press conference held last

Thursday that many Chinese love Korean culture and would like to know more about it. "Korea and China have actively exchanged culture for a long time," he said. "The tradition continues in this century in various fields including movies, music and drama."

Match Made in Heaven, a Korean opera, will be staged at the National Center for Performing Arts on June 28 and 29. The musical version of *King's Man*, a Korean movie, will be presented at Century Theater on July 5 and 6.

The Korean theater also showed an eye for the international. Theater Moollee will perform *Lady Macbeth*, a thorough rewrite of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, for Beijing. Director Han Tae-Suk said Korea has a trend of cultural exchange not only with China but also with the world.

Commerce & consultates

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BEIJING TODAY

Debate

7

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Chinese exams a must for foreign high school students

By Zhou Xuan

Currently, more than 10,000 expatriate students are studying in 85 high schools in Beijing, while other foreign children living in Beijing have chosen international schools.

For those who plan to pursue their degrees at Chinese universities, like Beijing University or Tsinghua University, a high school graduation certificate licensed by the China Ministry of Education is a must.

This week, the Beijing Municipal Education Commission released a supplementary notice for the reform of the High School Certificate Examination system

based on new curriculum. According to the supplementary notice, since the opening of fall semester, foreign students who want to get high school graduation certificates in both Chinese schools and Sino-foreign joint schools in Beijing must take a uniform High School Certificate Examination.

"It's a big challenge for most foreign students since becoming fluent in Chinese is already a great difficulty, let alone passing exams in Chinese," a director from Beijing Association of Expatriate Students' Education said. This organization is a civil society organization under the guidance of the Beijing Municipal Education

Commission, dedicated to bridge foreign students, schools and education departments.

Considering the differences in curriculum setting between Chinese students and foreign students, the new policy will be put into practice step by step. Municipal and district departments in charge of the examination will set new evaluation standards of examination results for foreign students. Foreign students can apply for exclusion from Ideology and Politics examinations.

In Sino-foreign joint schools, Ideology and Politics, Chinese and History are compulsory subjects, while other test subjects

can be substituted by foreign-introduced disciplines, the examination results of which must be recorded in line with actual test subjects and results.

Beijing Today tried to interview management at Beijing No 55 High School, which began to recruit the children of foreign residents in 1975. Wang, its director of the International Students Department, said the policy is still relatively sensitive and declined to comment.

Beijing City International School, an independent, co-educational day school located in Chaoyang District, also refused to give any comment.

New China Doll is back

By Zhang Dongya

China Doll, one of the most popular night clubs among Beijing expats, reopened yesterday on the top floor of the 3.3 Building in Sanlitun. It will continue to follow its original theme of fusing art, culture and music together.

With a much bigger space, the new China Doll includes a lounge, a compact dance floor fringed by two levels of seating, and seven VIP rooms and a VIP lounge. It includes three spaces featuring concepts of classic, modern and future.

Ai Wan, actress, filmmaker and China Doll owner, brought a loyal following from the original venue, as well as a successful track record, strong contacts and creative design ideas.

It was designed by Epic Design, a studio founded by Ai Wan, and the "nightlife genius designer" Wu Ying, who also designed Tango and Club Vogue88.

Epic Design invited some well-known artists like Shen Ling and Pang Yongjie to join in "the art of play." They put some classic elements abstracted from drawings into lamps, tables and installations in the club. They also provided select cocktails from bartender Bob Louison and his team.

"We are planning an art project related to the Beijing Olympics with Australian artist Matthew Joscelyne, who has participated in the design work of several previous Olympic Games," Ai Wan said.

New China Doll will follow its style of "The Art of Play" and mix fashion, painting, art, dance, high-tech and party together.

China Doll first opened in late 2006 and drew the city's biggest names in design, music and entertainment.

Club owners saying its business as usual during the Games



Nightlife at Houhai Lake is an important part of summer leisure.

CFP Photo

By Annie Wei

In small expat communities, rumors run rampant. Two small bars in Sanlitun and Xingfu Zhonglu were busted by police for drug sales some months ago.

At the same time, restaurants or bars that used to have outdoor seating during the summer either have disappeared or gotten smaller.

People are wondering how the nightlife in Beijing will be affected by Olympic security measures.

Deng, team leader of the Sanlitun chengguan, said that they had heard nothing of closing down any bars in Sanlitun. He said their job is to tidy up the streets by removing unlicensed vendors.

Yang Bing, owner of the popular White Rabbit, was quoted in *The New York Times* last Saturday, expressed his concern over bars having to close down during the Games.

He said to *Beijing Today* that he was not quoted completely. "We will be open during the Games and my other bar-owner

friends also will open their places during that time."

Yang said what he was concerned about was his desire to open for business in the afternoon. But White Rabbit is located on Lucky Street, close to Chaoyang Park's west gate. The beach volleyball venue is at east gate.

The club owner figured that some traffic route regulations might need to be implemented during the Games.

"I used to have a bar near the Beijing Exhibition Center. Normally there were some vehicle restrictions when there are events being held," he said.

"I am concerned about when the regulations will be issued so I can schedule my business plan," Yang said.

Yi Ming, owner of a bar and restaurant at Xingfucun, customarily placed three tables outside. It's a popular area with many expat residents who like to eat or drink outside the restaurant. However, Yi's outdoor seats van-

ished suddenly.

Yi said that he got a notice from the Chaoyang chengguan, asking him to take the outdoor seats inside.

According to the notice, restaurants or any kinds of businesses are not allowed to do business outside its doors or windows. Also, unlicensed BBQ cooking is not allowed because it affects the capital's air and environment quality, according to regulations forbidding outdoor roasting of food.

Yi said this summer was cooler than the previous and customers enjoy dining outside. Still, the notice affected his business badly and he saw a 50 percent drop.

What upset Yi the most is that he followed the notice while some did not.

After releasing the regulation notice, the chengguan did not follow up with strict supervision and many business competitors continued to enjoy the maximum number of clients who dined outside.

Event

A Booktalk: The Bloody White Baron

During a little known period of history in the early 1920's, a Buddhist, megalomaniac Estonian aristocrat was running amok in Mongolia. Popular historian James Palmer regales with tales of *The Bloody White Baron*, from his brand new book, a biography of Ungern-Sternberg.

Where: The Bookworm, Building 4, Nan Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District

When: June 26, 7:30 pm
Tel: 6586 9507

Talk: News Photograph in China

He Yanguang, journalist and photographer from *China Youth Daily*, will share his photos and accompanying stories which cover a variety of people and social lives. The talk will be in Chinese with English interpretation.

Where: Chinese Culture Club, Kent Center, No 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: June 25, 7:30-9 pm
Cost: 30 yuan
Tel: 6432 9341 (Monday-Friday, 9 am - 6 pm), 6432 1041 (weekday mornings and evenings; and weekend, rerouted to mobile phone)

Documentary night

True Intelligence Space will show original copies of the best Oscar or Cannes-awarded documentary films and some of best Chinese documentaries. Attendees can enjoy a cup of coffee or drink some wine while watching the movie. Food is also available. On June 20, it will show *The World Is Not Enough* directed by Kerong Zhang and on June 27, it will screen *China* directed by Michelangelo Antonioni.

Where: True Intelligence Space, Neverland Coffee Building 19, west Wanda Plaza, 93, Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

When: June 20 and 27, 8-11 pm
Tel: 5820 5369

The Beijing Big Band gig

The Beijing Big Band was formed in 2007 and plays authentic music from the big band era in a genuine vintage style. The band is led by Adam Lee from the US and Lu Xiaolin from China and consists of 19 musicians, mostly from China and a few from the US. The band is a local favorite for dancers and music lovers alike.

Where: Yugongyishan, Zhangzizhong Lu 3-2, west courtyard former site of Duan Qirui Government, Dongcheng District

When: June 25, 9 pm
Cost: 50 yuan
Tel: 6404 2711
(By He Jianwei)

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to:
weiyang@ynet.com

I have family coming in July and I am looking for a hotel for them around the Gulou area, preferably traditional and within walking distance to Houhai and Tiananmen. Any suggestions would be greatly appreciated?

There are many traditional hotels you can find through online reviews. If they're only going to be here a few days, the Beijing Hotel is worth it. It's expensive, but it's a 10-minute walk to Tiananmen and Forbidden City, maybe a 15-20 minute trek to Houhai. All of the staff speaks English, and there is a mall below where most of the staff speaks English as well. If you put them in a 2 or 3-star hotel someplace where they can't even order room service or get basic services, you'll save some money but they'll have a negative experience.

Can anyone recommend a good dentist around Wudaokao? English speaking would be great.

There is a clinic that is part of a chain in the Tsinghua Science Park, right next to Quanjude Roast Duck. You can get high quality work and reasonable prices. The number is 8215 8681, or you can just walk in and make an appointment. They are open on weekends and after work, as well.

I travel between China and the US for work. I am thinking it would be a wonderful idea to have my own place to stay when I am here. Instead of asking information from a broker, I wonder if you can give me some advice on buying an apartment in Beijing from the point of view of an English newspaper?

As a newspaper, we cannot tell you what the real estate prices will be in the future. Choose a location in a well-established neighborhood near your work place since the traffic is harsh during peak times. But if you are not planning on living in China for one year or more with a valid visa, you will not be allowed to buy an apartment in Beijing as a foreigner.

Can you recommend a decent bathhouse in Chaoyang district, where I can go anytime, pay 30 or 40 yuan and enjoy a sauna, jacuzzi, shower or pool?

Normally, for 48 yuan you can take a bath, have a swim and laze in a hot tub and sauna. For 88 yuan you get all the services mentioned above and also a foot massage. There are a lot around the city. One is located south of Run City, Beiyuanjiayuan, Chaoyang district. Take Line 5 to get there.

(By Bai Jingnan)

Tips to avoid missing flights

By Han Manman

Every June to August, Beijing airport receives and sends off a flood of expats. Before the tidal wave of tourists arrives, Beijing Exit and Entry Frontier Inspection has some tips to help expats avoid missing international flights, as the department has recently found that many of these travelers have missed flights due to unfamiliarity with the new T3 building or passport problems.

Leave early

Since Terminal 3 extends over an enormous area, departing passengers have to use airport transport systems to get to the departure hall where they go through frontier inspection and security checks after baggage check-in.

Passengers should arrive at the airport four hours in advance. The peak hours for immigration inspection are from 6-8 am, 11 am to 1 pm and 10-11:30 pm. Passengers leaving China should start early to avoid traffic jams and peak inspection hours.

Passengers with immediate departure can go through the express lane at one side of the departure hall to ensure a smooth trip.

Protect your passport

Inspectors said that many expats

missed their international flights because of passport problems which involved the lack of proper travel documents, using expired passports, missing pages and torn documents.

The immigration officers said some passengers leave their documents inside checked-in baggage. One lost the documents on his way to the airport and others forgot to update their passports. If these things happen, one needs to go to the Chinese embassy, consulate or the Entry and Exit Administration Section of China to extend his passport or get a new one, be it torn, valid for less than six months or even expired.

Check visa validity before the trip

Expats leaving China should pay special attention to the allowed time for their stay in China. Those unable to leave China in the permitted time should go to the Entry and Exit Administration Section of the local Public Security Bureau to extend their visa. Those exempt from visas and holding long-term visas such as a study visa should go to the Entry and Exit Administration Section of local Public Security for Residence Permit within 30 days from the time they enter China in case of travel delays and unnecessary loss.



Passengers ask for help at T3.

CFP Photo

Universal youths join in arts

By Gan Tian

The China International Youth Arts Festival will kick off at the beginning of July, with hundreds of activities coming from all over the world. The festival, featuring exhibitions, singing groups, concerts and theater, will allow young people from all over the world to exchange cultural ideas.

The opening ceremony features the Olympic Chorus at the Great Hall of the People on July 2, with the choruses and orchestras of Stanford University, Tsinghua University, Beijing University and North America Taiwan University.

The Los Angeles Children's Chorus (LACC) will present *Sound of The Angel* at the Beijing Concert Hall on July 5. Founded in 1986, LACC has educated more than 1,000 young singers and currently includes 250 choristers in five ensembles from communities across the greater Los Angeles area. Forbidden City Music Hall will also see Bai Liang's solo violin concert on July 9.

In addition, the National Youth Theater of Great Britain will come to town and appear at the Performing Center on July 12 and 13. They will invite several local students to perform with them, to get a better understanding of each other.

The China International Youth Arts Festival will also hold forums in Chaoyang Park on July 13 on creation, environmental protection and solving poverty issues.

Sichuan tourism back on its feet after quake



Sichuan welcomes visitors after the quake.

CFP Photo

By Zhang Dongya

Sichuan Province started to revive its travel industry yesterday, after the powerful earthquake last month, according to the press conference held by the Sichuan provincial government last week.

A total of 13 cities and prefectures are reopened. They are Zigong, Panzhihua, Luzhou, Suining, Neijiang, Leshan,

Nanchong, Yibing, Guang'an, Dazhou, Meizhou, Ziyang and Liangshan. Other tourism venues except some severely hit areas like Dujiangyan and Pengzhou will be partially opened.

Two tourism lines have also begun operation again, Chengdu - Luding - Hailuogou and Chengdu - Luding - Danba.

Dujiangyan scenic spot, one

of the world's first irrigation systems, and the Wolong Nature Reserve, a pandas habitat, were partly damaged during the quake. Jiuzhaigou, Emei Mountain and Leshan Grand Buddha are fortunately in good condition, Zhang Gu, director of the Sichuan Provincial Tourism Bureau said.

However, since the roads are still badly damaged, the most popular scenic spot Jiuzhaigou cannot accommodate tourists yet.

Measures will be taken to attract visitors including free admission to tourist sites, expanding air services and reducing prices for hotels and transportation.

A survey conducted by Ctrip showed nearly 70 percent of tourists wanted to travel to Sichuan, and 13 percent said they will head there soon.

Zhang said that they need to rebuild tourists' confidence first.

Language experts for the Games

By Annie Wei

As a huge number of visitors from all over the world are expected to attend the Olympic Games, security is a big concern for local police. Therefore, the exit and entry bureau invited 36 foreign language experts as volunteers to help break down the language barriers between foreign visitors and local police and achieve a high quality of security at the same time.

These 36 language experts are retired senior linguists who have been working for China Radio International for over 30 years. They used to work in broadcasting, editing, reporting and translation.

As volunteers, these experts have

taken training related to the laws and regulations for foreigners staying in China.

They will start working at the beginning of July. According to the exit and entry bureau, foreigners who are struggling with their Chinese or English, can now feel less stress in communicating with local police when they ask for help in areas such as losing a passport, a wallet or when reporting a crime.

When a foreigner who does not speak Chinese or English calls 110 for help, he or she should tell the receptionist which country he or she is from, the exit and entry bureau said.

The bureau will call in a language expert to join in the three-party call and figure out what has happened.

If a foreigner has had an accident or been involved in a crime scene, the police will come to the spot with a language expert, who will help with the details of the deposition.

Also, during the Games, these volunteers with an average age of 63, will help document translations and interpret between local police and the security person of different teams when it is needed.

The special language aids include Spanish, Mongolian, Filipino, Bangladeshi and some Chinese dialects like Hanka and Cantonese.

Blending the visual arts

Twelve Chinese and Indonesian artists exchange ideas about social change

Situated in southeast Asia, Indonesia, the largest archipelago country in the world, is well-known for its large population, diverse ethnic composition and rich and long history. China is also a big country with a population of about 1.3 billion, 56 ethnic groups and 5,000 years of history and culture. In such a context of global pluralism and flourishing Asian art, an exchange exhibition for Chinese and Indonesian artists is surely of great significance.

China's New Age Gallery and Indonesia's Edwin's Gallery curated together to present the works of five Indonesian artists and seven Chinese artists.

The New Age Gallery is committed to discovering and introducing to the public young contemporary Chinese artists and promoting exchange and dialogue between new artists from different cultures. It has long been

insightfully giving attention to the development of art in southeast Asia.

"This exchange exhibition will present to the public Indonesian artists who have either come to the fore, established their own fame at home or abroad or have played an active role as a new artistic force. They focus their artistic concern on various aspects of politics, economics, religion and life, reflecting diverse artistic styles of a new generation characterized by national features, originality and exotic quality," gallery director Rahardjo said.

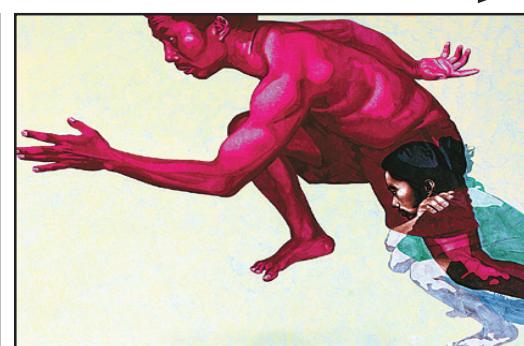
In the exhibition hall of the New Age Gallery, Indonesian artists' paintings are showcased on two walls and Chinese artists' works on one wall. In the middle of the hall stand sculptures from both countries' artists.



Hope 2, steel,
by Redy Rahadian



The Theatrical Idol, oil on
canvas, by Indra Widiyanto



The All-Time Quicker, acrylic on canvas,
by Sugiyo Dwiarso

Indonesian

The first three pieces are paintings by the oldest of Indonesia's artists. **F. Sigit Santoso**, 44, a graduate from the Indonesian Arts Institute (ISI), expresses his socio-cultural comments often in a hilarious, almost naughty, manner.

He talks about Javanese traditional culture and values which he sometimes thinks to be no longer applicable in this modern world.

In the Royal Court of Yogyakarta, they have the "abdi dalem," the servants to the king, who have been serving in the palace for generations. Although their wages are small, they feel honored to be able to serve his majesty.

In Santoso's Rajakaya series, he questioned this notion of service. "Rajakaya" is an old Indonesian expression, which is seldom used nowadays. It refers to animals such as cows, bulls or goats. It also means "rich king."

"The cow is an animal which dedicates its life for the good of mankind – its milk is consumed, its energy is used to cultivate lands, and its flesh is turned into culinary delicacies. Santoso suggests that the black spots on their bodies may contain some messages that need to be re-thought. Those black spots may well be some kind of silent resistance," Rahardjo said.

Beside Santoso's works are **Indra Widiyanto**'s three pieces. Widiyanto, 33, graduated from the Bandung Institute of Technology, which is the other most important school of art in Indonesia. The ideas and concepts in his works mostly come from his daily events and problems that he has experienced himself.

In The Theatrical Idol, Widiyanto speaks about an imaginary theatrical society, where the hair is considered as having the utmost important social parameter. "In the middle, we see a child with the long and stylish hair, while at the same time, there are two other children who cheer for him and treat him like an idol.

In this particular piece of work, Widiyanto actually talks about his concerns upon the consumerist culture, where one's possessions become the one thing that matters and which brings idolatrous praise from others," Rahardjo said.

Like Santoso, **Sugiyo Dwiarso**, 40, often criticizes traditional Javanese culture and values. The State of Yogyakarta, where ISI is located, is the only state in Indonesia that is still governed directly by the monarch.

In many ways, the Yogyakartan society still embraces the Javanese traditional values and culture very strongly. One of the more popular Javanese sayings is "alon-alon waton kelakon," which means "slowly but surely."

In The All-Time Quicker, Dwiarso expresses his eagerness to break out of the Javanese culture, which tends to take things slowly. "This, he deems, is no longer applicable in today's world, as the modern world is moving so fast," Rahardjo said.

In **Januri** and **Afdhal**'s works, their ideas are to show the greediness of human beings. In Januri's Exploitation series, nature and its resources have been heavily exploited.

"In this series, Januri offers us depictions of landscapes that are dry, lifeless, almost abandoned, and at the same time, we can see little figures who are still busy exploiting," Rahardjo said.

The Indonesian artists did not represent any single Indonesian, but demonstrate the very notion of the Indonesian diversity. "The most important function of the exchange exhibition is to provide communication between Chinese and Indonesian artists. As the viewers enjoy the works, they can speak out on which work comes from Indonesia and which comes from China," Lu Hengshun, the director of New Age Gallery, said.



Rajakaya, oil on canvas, by F. Sigit Santoso

Artists of China and Indonesia

By He Jianwei

"Different ethnic cultures, languages and techniques in painting and different concerns and reflections constitute a colorful world of art in China and Indonesia and bring forth similar and different artistic motifs by artists of the same generation from different backgrounds."

- Kevin Aditya Rahardjo, director of the Indonesian Edwin's Gallery.



Photos provided by New Age Gallery

Chinese

Although social changes have occurred in the economic system, the social structure and the values, the Chinese artists who participated in the exhibition still stick to certain ideals and values they treasure.

In the middle of the hall was a sculpture made of stainless steel by **Zheng Lu**. It is a figure of a man lying down on his left side. His body is engraved with thousands of seal characters.

"Characters used as the carriers of information are wonderful symbols. The symbolic information fulfills its formal mission under the guise of 'staying' and 'leaving' or of being 'virtual' and 'substantial,'" Zheng said.

In **Na Wei** and **Luo Tiantian**'s works, both of whom were born after 1980, the focus is on the issues of "the only child," which refers to the generation born after the country implemented its Family Planning Policy. They use their art to express their realistic growth, life, emotions and dilemmas.

The images in Na's paintings are all of young people in hospital patient garb standing beneath a white cloud under the vast blue sky. It addresses the young people's questions and psychological trauma caused by contemporary society. The widespread heavy color symbolizes

the reality which is beyond understanding and displays the hollow and heavy mood resting deep in the hearts of the figures.

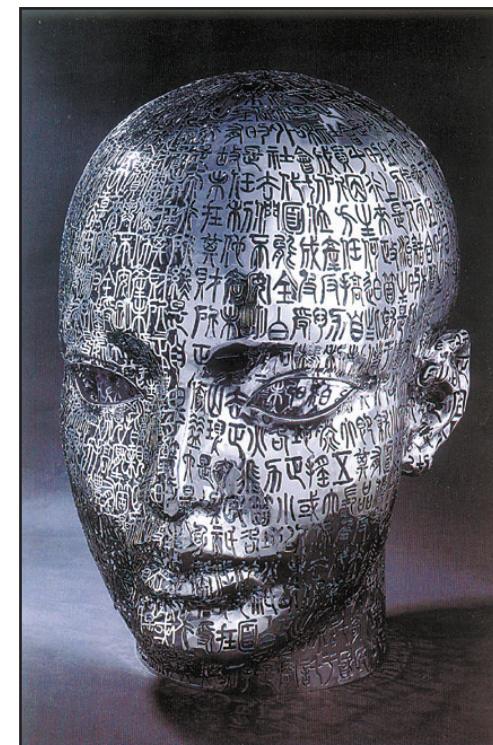
The last two paintings are **Zhong Shan**'s works. His paintings are all in the form of double images. One painting describes a scene in daily life and the other is an imaginative space extended from daily life. Although the two paintings share the same composition and contents, in certain ways they are entirely different.

"This corresponding relationship between reality and imagination simply shows the natural individuality and split personality of people living in this time," Zhong said.

"Although we are different countries, we are Asian countries enjoying long histories and facing the great changes in society and the world of art. This exhibition in this new age is definitely an invaluable opportunity not only for the artists from the two countries to have artistic exchange and dialogue for advancement of contemporary art in both countries, but also for the people in both countries to promote mutual understanding and appreciation," Rahardjo said.



No 9 Singleton generation series, Good Night Sunshine, oil on canvas, by Na Wei



Zhuan Characters, stainless steel, by Zheng Lu

New Age New Blending New Generation 12 Chinese and Indonesian Artists Exchange Exhibition

Where: New Age Gallery, 8502, D09 Area, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: until June 29

Tel: 8459 9282

My splendid concubine, by Lloyd Lofthouse

By Annie Wei

Robert Hart (1835-1911) is one of the few foreigners who achieved high status and power in China. He was inspector general of customs, and was involved in building the railroads, postal and telegraph systems and schools.

My Splendid Concubine (365pp, iUniverse Publisher's Choice, US \$21.95), written by Lloyd Lofthouse, is a fictional account of young Hart's early years in China.

The book fabricates the details of how Hart became so absorbed: he wanted to learn everything Chinese, he dressed in Chinese clothes, he learned centuries of Chinese literature, talked with locals and attended Chinese opera.

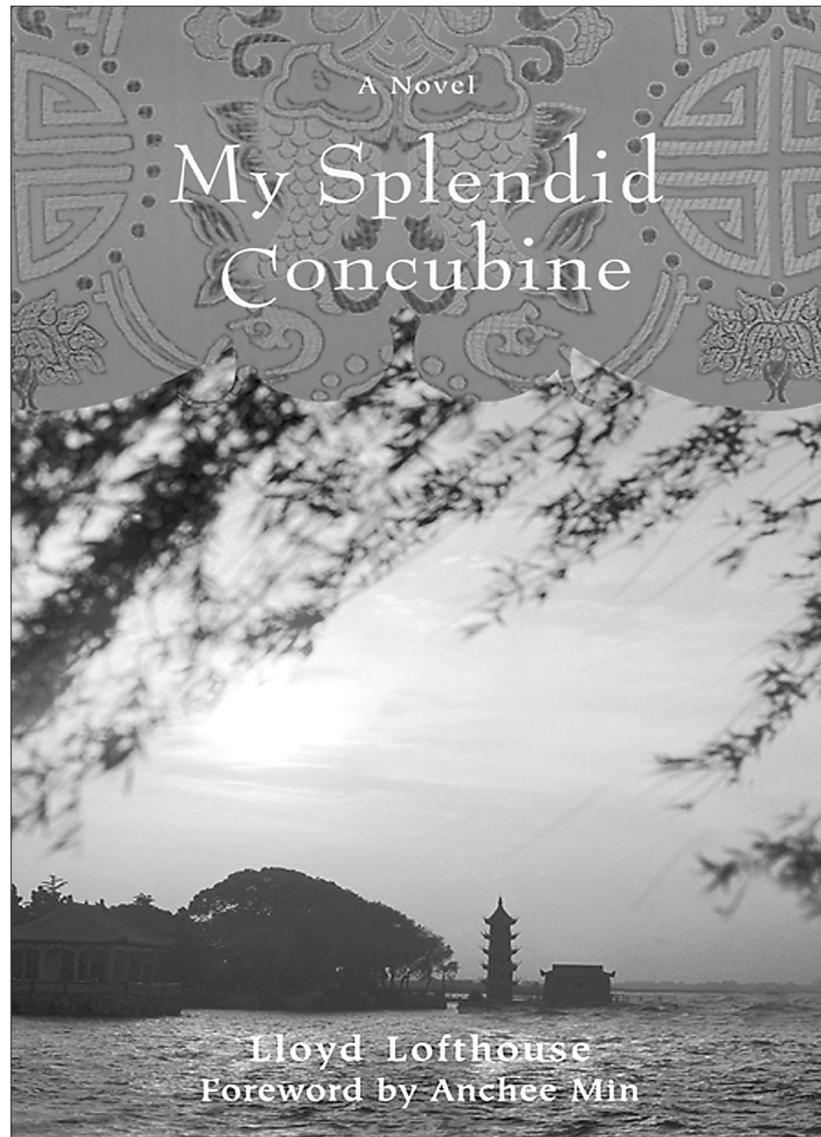
What the real Hart is known for has little role in this story. Academic research has shown Hart played an important role in the relationship between China and the West.

This book is more about a young white guy's adventure in China: facing culture shock, learning to deal with people around him. His life is surrounded by servants, friends and enemies who want to kill him over fighting for Ayaou, the young Chinese woman with whom Hart falls in love. Poverty forces Ayaou's father to sell her and her sister into poverty. Hart wants to free Ayaou but ends up buying her sister Shao-mei.

The most important part of the book is that "his feelings for the two sisters go against the teachings of his Christian upbringing and almost break him emotionally." The story is also rife with sexual content, as the two young sisters beg for Hart's love – probably little more than the author's own fantasy and Asian fetish.

Although Hart was an important person who influenced modern history, today he is entirely without fame. The most famous foreigner in China would be Dashan, who owes much of his success to television, and Cao Cao, an actor from the US.

The writer, Lloyd Lofthouse, is a journalist and a veteran of the war in Vietnam. While he spent nine years preparing this book, numerous obvious flaws should leap out to any Chinese reader.

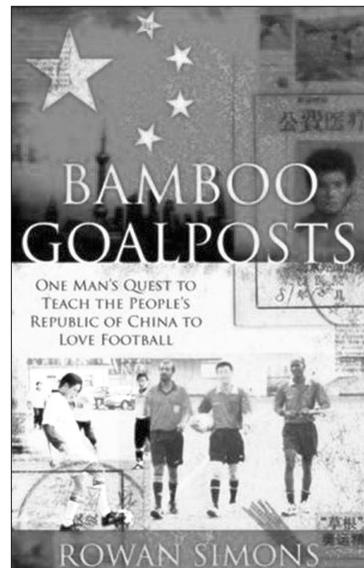


In the first chapter, when Hart is going to meet the Empress, a eunuch tells him, "You'll have twenty minutes." Watches were something very rare at that time, and the usages of hours or minutes would not have been popular, let alone with the

conservative court.

In the later chapters, when Hart wants to learn Chinese medicine, a traditional doctor says he is a "hungry man," phrasing which would never have been spoken verbally at that time.

Calling all sports innovators



By Jackie Zhang

The Olympic Games is the most important sports ever held in China. Rowan Simons says it is the perfect time to discuss the further development of the sports industry. His new book, *Bamboo Goalposts*

(272pp, Pan Macmillan, US \$29.46), is being published to coincide with the Games.

Rowan Simons, chairman of ClubFootball, has lived in China for 20 years and works with Beijing TV. *Bamboo Goalposts* is his humorous and insightful account of what it is like to live, work and play here.

"I chose to write a book because I think that China needs to stop for a moment and consider its relationship with sports and learn something about the beauty of the game at the grassroots level rather than the elite level," Simons said. "It's very hard to give this message using other media such as TV or newspapers because they do not have enough time to go into depth about certain issues."

When Simons first came to China, he couldn't find a local soccer team to join. "Having learned Chinese, for years I tried explaining what football meant via my job as a TV presenter, but viewers only saw the glamor of the elite clubs and didn't take the game into their lives," he said. Ten years ago, Simons started using his position inside the media to reinvent soccer.

"Football is the world's most popular sport ... At ClubFootball, we have more than 60,000 members from over 80 countries

who all share a love of this wonderful game and understand that we must all play by the same rules," he said.

Simons said he wanted to show people that the most important thing about the game is the joy of playing rather than watching or reading about it or being discouraged by the national team's performance in international events.

Bamboo Goalposts details the story of ClubFootball since its humble beginnings and the many ups and downs of soccer's development in China along the way. "Of all my experiences, the best was the holding of the SARS Victory Cup in 2003," Simons said.

"At that time, [the city] was recovering from the medical crisis and I was very proud that the Beijing government chose to use a football match between amateur players from the international community and the medical community to celebrate the victory and give people a wonderful day to remember," he said.

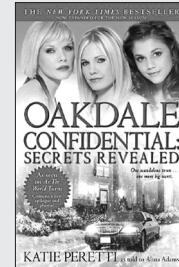
Simons said he hopes his book will encourage the government to consider further reforms in sports administration after the Olympics and encourage more people to embrace the game.

CNPIEC Bookstore book listing

The China National Publication Import and Export Corporation's (CNPIEC) bookstore recommends the following new arrivals to *Beijing Today* readers.

Oakdale Confidential

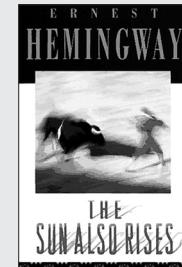
By Katie Peretti, 384pp, Pocket, 200 yuan



It's a major event in Oakdale – a black-tie gala honoring the Marron family's 50 years of support for Oakdale's Memorial Hospital. But high spirits are cut short when patron of honor Gregory Marron Jr. is delivered in his limo dead on arrival, from an apparent heart attack. Three women in the crowd have reasons of their own to suspect murder. Now, event organizer Katie Peretti, Maddie Coleman, the teen-aged sister of the limo's driver and Carly Snyder, one of Marron's mistresses, are desperate to protect the men they love. The trio cross paths in an investigation that's uncovering more poisonous secrets in Oakdale than they ever imagined.

The Sun also Rises

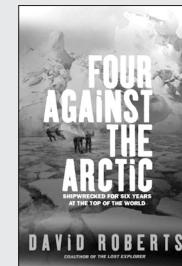
By Ernest Hemingway, 256pp, Scribner, 150 yuan



The story of expatriate Americans and Britons in Paris between the wars. Jake Barnes is a tragic hero, damaged beyond repair in the war. He has the bad luck to meet and fall in love with Brett Ashley, a beautiful young Englishwoman. Worse, she finds in Jake everything she ever wanted but now cannot have. It is a hopeless and compelling relationship, told without affectation or sentiment by a young author just reaching the height of his powers.

Four Against the Arctic

By David Roberts, 320pp, Simon & Schuster, 140 yuan



David Roberts came across the old legend of four shipwrecked Russian sailors who managed to survive for six years on Svalbard in the high Arctic in 1743. Incredulous, Roberts – an expert on exploration literature – determined to learn the truth about this astonishing story. This book is the result of that quest, a journey that took Roberts to libraries and archives on two continents and eventually to Russia and Svalbard itself.

(By Zhang Dongya)

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ROLEX

Summertime is sneakers time

By Gan Tian

Sneakers usually sneak up on us in the summertime and *Beijing Today* has found some of the most popular sneaker shops in town.

Eternal shoes and fashion

By Huang Weina

"Eternal," a shoe store, may make shoe lovers' dreams come true. The shop sells skateboard shoes and popular sneakers, as well as brands like Vans, Emerica and Etnies. It also carries other brands of trendy shoes. The shop envelopes its visitors in the environment quickly with stylish background music and old school decorations. Here are a few of the shoe stars at Eternal.

Vans X Iron Maiden

This is one of Van's installments of its Iron Maiden collection scheduled for its holiday collection. Iron Maiden's art work is epic, and this collaboration could be compared to that of Nike's work with Pushead. For its holiday season it present the SK8-Hi version and a Slip On. The artwork is from Iron Maiden's Powerslave album, and the group will be stopping by in October.

Vans X NECKFACE

Neckface is the real deal – a skateboarder and artist whose graffiti assaults urban landscapes around the world. His individual



Vans neck face

art pieces were created for the DD-66, AV Era, TNT 2 and Sk8-Hi shoes, along with matching T-shirts and a hat. The package is a tribute to hardcore skateboarding and the commonalities shared between skaters and artists.

Vans X Corey Taylor

This collection features the talents of Slipknot's Corey Taylor. Its theme is



Vans iron maiden

simple and straightforward, showing the special personality of Taylor and his hopes for peace and the spirit of rock 'n' roll. If you are a metal head and a shoe lover, this is a sweet choice.

Eternal

Where: 456 Dongsi Bei Dajie, Dongcheng District
Tel: 6401 8213

The Tiger is tops

By Bai Jingnan

As a Japanese-born brand, Onitsuka Tiger has taken on a mission to show the fabulous art and technique of real Japanese tradition to the world, and even to the Japanese youth who have forgotten it.

Many representative products are found in the leading Chinese flagship store at Joy City. MINI Clubman is the latest memorial contributory casual of Onitsuka Tiger styled on the famous BMW car. The company issued 20,000 pairs globally in three colors from which to choose, chocolate and milk white, black and silver and green and white milk with the shoes unique logo emblazoned on the shoe's tongue.

The design of the BMW car cushion matches the insole's design, the wing tips are similar to the lines of the legendary car, the shape of the insoles is the same as the leather of the automobile cushion and the shoelace holes mirror the cars' headlights. The product matches people's lifestyles perfectly and is full of young, fresh fashion elements.

Tai Chi is even greater. Its classic style in yellow and black was Bruce Lee's favorite. The shoe's upper is comfortable with thin soles and the famous lines clone the lightweight and smooth style of wushu shoes. The leather technology is very sophisticated and soles are very flexible which makes it an exceptionally comfortable fit for the foot.

All the clothes of Tiger are made in an astonishing variety of styles, especially the T-shirts. The most famous is the "Onitsuka Tiger", which is made from Indian cotton. The texture is very soft, comfortable and breathable with the front of the T-shirt printed in ink and wash. Tiger founder Onitsuka's personal trademark, the "Onitsuka Tiger," is seen on the lower right side of the garment making it valuable to collectors.

Onitsuka Tiger

Where: 4F, 56, Joy City, 131 Xidan Bei Dajie, Xicheng District
Tel: 5971 6393
Price: Footwear about 700 yuan, T-shirts about 300 yuan



Tai Chi



1hund(red) Artist 58, Steve Monti



1hund(red) Artist 12, Dr Romanelli

Converse covers the city

By Gan Tian

Converse opened its global flagship store in Xidan at the end of last month, with many cultural idols plastered on the main advertising posters. People like James Dean, Hunter S Thompson, The Sex Pistols, Joan Jett, Billie Joe Armstrong and Dwyane Wade. Their images represent "rebel culture."

Cheryl Calegari, senior marketing director of Converse Asia Pacific, attended the opening ceremony and recommended several Converse products.

The year 2008 is the 100th anniversary of Converse. The store features the "1hund(red) Artist 58, Steve Monti." Monti was the drummer in The Curve. This sneaker has leather hand-in-hand overlays and a vulcanized rubber outer sole for increased traction and flexibility. You might want to put these shoes on display rather than wear them, but they are just too cool not to take out for a walk.

"1hund(red) Artist 12, Dr Romanelli" is just what the doctor ordered: a shoe full of positive changes: leather upper with laser-etched bandage graphics. Romanelli is known for his "cut and paste" sense of style and creating new things, and you can see that clearly in this pair of sneakers – his use of chopped up vintage materials has created an upgrade from the original Chuck Taylor.

All these products have the signature top red eyelets and red outer sole with woven label. A portion of the profits from sales of the Monti and Romanelli shoes will go to The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria – pick up a pair and show you care.

Salvaged items from rock clubs, old musical instruments and other physical manifestations of rock play a big role in the shop's designs. The complete Converse sneaker collection is available at its Xidan store. It is more like a museum steeped in shoe history than a shoe store.

Converse global flagship store

Where: F1, Huawei Shopping Center, Xidan, Xicheng District
Tel: 6601 3001

Season for enduring the durian

CFP Photo

History

The fruit has a very romantic legend behind it. In the ancient times, there was a couple going out to the south sea by boat. While on the boat, they fell ill. Eventually, the boat bumped into a beautiful small island where the locals offered them durian fruit. The couple ate the fruit and recovered soon, but were unwilling to return home. Since then, the fruit has been called "durian," because it makes people forget to return.

Durian is most famous in Thailand, where it is given the title "the king of fruit." It has an infamously pungent aroma that has led the Thai government to ban its entry into hotels, onto trains or into other public places. China has no such law.

Disputable smell

The fruit's scent has been called both fragrant and stinky. Some people love it and some people hate it. Men, more often, hate it. Much like French cheese, whether it is good or bad is hotly contested. The best best is to just try it yourself and find out if the king of fruits appeals to your taste buds.

Nutritive Value

Durian is nutritious. Its flesh contains starch, sugars and protein. It has vitamins B and C, calcium, iron, magnesium, phosphorous and

Zinc. It is a comparatively balanced tropical fruit. It is commonly eaten by hospital patients and postpartum women in Thailand.



Cream durian cake



Durian custard

By Sun Jina

Summer is the best season to enjoy durian fruit. The fruit is the freshest and the prices are the cheapest. A piece of durian is a treat for those days when you are home alone.



Fried durian cake

Where to eat

21Cake

The small cake shop's Durian-flavored cake is one of its best sellers. With an ice-cream bottom layer, the cake is bursting with juicy flavor.

Where: Room 1002, Building 9, Jianwei SOHO, 39 Dongsanhuan Zhong Lu, Chaoyang District
Tel: 4006 5021 ext 21, 6571 2266

Banana Leaf

The Thai restaurant certainly serves durian in a fashionable way. It has Durian Paobing, where flour is combined with the fruit for a filling dish.

Zhongguancun Branch
Where: South of the District B, Zhongguancun Shopping Plaza, 15 Zhongguan-

cun Dajie, Haidian District
Tel: 5986 3666

Sanlitun Branch
Where: Court 4, Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang District
Tel: 6506 8855

Jindingxuan

Durian Su is a typical Guangdong snack. Jindingxuan serves the dish in a small bowl with lightly fried flour and durian juice.

Ditan Branch
Where: 77 Hepingli Xi Jie, Dongcheng District
Tel: 6429 9888

Tuanjiehu Branch
Where: 15 Tuanjiehu Nan Lu, Chaoyang District
Tel: 8596 8881
Yayuncun Branch
Where: 15 Yiyuan District, Anhui Bei Li, Chaoyang District
Tel: 6497 8168

Recipes

Durian can be made into many different dishes, from ice-cream to fried durian cake. Beijing Today helps find some of the most popular durian recipes around the world.

Durian Ice-cream

Ingredients

250g non dairy cream
3 heaping spoons of sugar
2 egg yolks
500mL milk
durian

Instructions

- Let cream thaw until it liquefies completely.
- Blend the sugar and egg

until smooth.

- Remove excess water and blend the milk and egg liquid.
- Smash durian flesh until smooth and liquid and blend it with the egg mixture.

- Use egg beaters to blend the cream until mixed 60 percent.
- Blend the cream and mixture evenly.

- Freeze it. Every 40-50 minutes remove it and blend it. Continue until it solidifies.

Durian custard

This is one of Guangdong Province's most famous des-

serts. Even people who can't stand the fruit have changed their minds after tasting it.

Ingredients

150g durian
3 eggs
500g flour
100g sugar
100g oil
1 egg folk

Instructions

- Remove the durian flesh from the shell.
- Mix the flour, oil and egg together. Add a suitable amount of water. Knead it into a dough until the surface is smooth, not sticky.

- Flatten the dough and put into the durian flesh. Brush with egg yolk and bake until golden.

Watch it while it bakes. The custard should be removed when it turns golden.

Durian stewed chicken

This dish is supposed to enrich the blood and make eaters more energetic.

Ingredients

durian
1 chicken (about 600g)
walnuts
10g ginger tablets

50g jujubes
1.5kg water
salt
MSG

Instructions

Clean the chicken and remove its skin. Place it in hot water and boil for 5 minutes. Disjoint. Soak walnuts in water. Peel and core jujubes. Peel the durian, remove and save its skin and dice.

Pour the chicken, ginger, walnut, jujube, durian skin and flesh into the boiling water. Cook first on a high flame, then reduce heat. Add salt and MSG. Simmer until done.

5 Friday, June 20

Exhibition**Inward – Installation and Sculpture Exhibition**

The exhibition features Cao Hui, Chao Ziwei, Chao Ziyi, Huang Yang, Lei Hong, Li Hongjun, Liang Binbin, Liu Xinyi, Liu Zhiyi, Wu Di, Wu Jian'an and Yang Shuai.

Where: PIFO New Art Studios, B-07 Beijing International Art Camp, Suojiaocun, Cuigezhuang, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10 am – 6 pm until July 20

Admission: Free
Tel: 6437 1792

The Dearth of Color

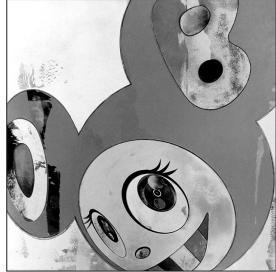
The group exhibition features Wolfgang Stiller, Yan Wei, Andrew Binkley,

Francisco Salvado, Bradford Kessler and Matthew Niederhauser.

Where: Gallery 49, 1949, the Hidden City, Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10 am – 6 pm until July 30

Admission: Free
Tel: 6501 1949

Who will be the Limited Edition Today?

The exhibition features artists from China and Japan.

Where: Red Space, 4 Jiux-

ianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 11 am – 7 pm until July 20

Admission: Free
Tel: 13810591004

Movie**La Môme**

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guancai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm
Admission: 10-20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627

**Upcoming****Opera****Sleeping Beauty**

Who: The Royal English Ballet
Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm, June 21-23
Admission: 100-1,080 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Stage in July**Concert****Bai Liang Violin Solo Concert**

Who: Bai Liang
Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30 pm, July 9
Admission: 120-380 yuan
Tel: 6559 8306

Concert Opera Fidelio

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

Who: China National Symphony Orchestra

When: 7:30 pm, July 6-9
Admission: 50-380 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Concert by Macao Chinese Orchestra

Who: Macao Chinese Orchestra
Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30 pm, July 12-13
Admission: 30-380 yuan
Tel: 6559 8306

Alban Berg Quartet Concert

Who: Alban Berg Quartet
Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm, July 15-16
Admission: 80-580 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

One World, One Dream – Olympic Symphony Orchestra

Who: Sino-American Artists
Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm, July 27
Admission: 80-780 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Opera**Aida**

Who: Cairo Opera House
Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm, July 12-13
Admission: 180-880 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Tosca

Who: Rome Opera House
Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm, July 17-20
Admission: 180-880 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Dance**Katakllo Athletic Dance****Theatre China Tour**

Who: Katakllo Athletic Dance Theater
Where: PKU Centennial Memorial Hall, 116 Zhongguancun Bei Dajie, Haidian

When: 7 pm, July 11-12
Admission: 20-280 yuan
Tel: 6275 8452

Epic Dance along the River during Qingming Festival

Who: Hong Kong Dance Company

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm, July 16-17
Admission: 100-600 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

(By Li Jing)

6 Saturday, June 21

Saturday, June 21

13 Dongfeng Art Park,
1 Tuofangying Nan Lu,
Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10 am – 6 pm until July 14

Admission: Free
Tel: 8459 8390

New Vision – digital and video exhibition

This new media art exhibition about body, imagination and living space features Dai Jiali, He Yingbin, Liu Jinhua, Ou Jianda, Wu Danmiao, Xu Meiling, Yu Qiuming, Zheng Haotian and Zhou Ziwei from mainland China and Huang Bozhi, Peng Jingrong and Wang Yahui from Taiwan.

Where: Expol-Sources Art Space, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10:30 am – 6:30 pm until June 29

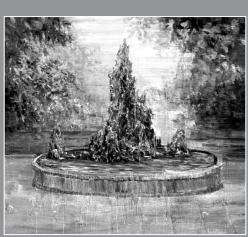
Admission: Free
Tel: 6431 4793

Movie**Gabrielle**

Where: SZ Art Center, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10 am – 6 pm until August 31

Admission: Free
Tel: 6435 9719

Butterfly Catching – Luo Quanmu Solo Exhibition

Luo Quanmu's works depict the ambiguous status of something about to set out or to end.

Where: Aura Gallery,

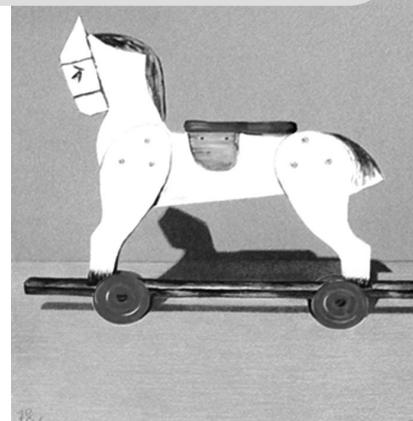
Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guancai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: 5 pm
Admission: 10-20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guancai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily 11 am – 6 pm until July 11

Admission: Free
Tel: 6432 4122, 1391166261

**Sunday, June 22****Exhibition****Cipher of Appetency – Yi Yan solo exhibition**

Where: New Millennium Gallery, 3818 Warehouse, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily 11 am – 6 pm until July 11

Admission: Free
Tel: 6432 4122, 1391166261

Where: Three Shadows Photography Art Centre, 155 Caochangdi, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10 am – 6 pm until July 27

Admission: Free
Tel: 6432 2663 ext 8008

I am not Lonely – Wu Desheng Solo Exhibition

Where: Triumph Alternative Space, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10 am – 6:30 pm until July 13

Admission: Free
Tel: 8459 9639

Movie**Mademoiselle**

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guancai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm

Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627

Tosca**Who: Rome Opera House**

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm, July 17-20
Admission: 180-880 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Dance**Katakllo Athletic Dance****Theatre China Tour**

Who: Katakllo Athletic Dance Theater
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Epic Dance along the River during Qingming Festival

Who: Hong Kong Dance Company

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm, July 16-17
Admission: 100-600 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

(By Li Jing)

Sports fans, stay healthy

Unhealthy food and drink

Example: Before each day's match, Li Bin's wife prepares a lot of food and drink for her husband, including cold coffee, cooked food, potato chips and other snacks. However, Li has started to have stomach problems and has gained weight due to the numerous late-night chow downs.

Suggestion: A fan could gain up to 5 kilograms by eating an extra 40,000 calories worth of snacks and drinks over the course of the month-long tournament, Dr James Lam, president of the Hong Kong Association of Sports Medicine and Sports Science, said.

For soccer-mad people who don't want to miss any games, eat less oily foods during the night and more fruit to supply your body with vitamins and energy. In the midnight hours, a person's stomach is in the "rest" mode and weak at digesting. So one should be very careful when choosing food and drink.

People with chronic diseases should also be careful when drinking coffee or beer. People with stomach problems will worsen their condition if they drink too much coffee and cold drinks.

Tender tonsils

Example: Who said women are quieter than men when they watch soccer? Wang Xue is a crazy soccer fan, especially when her favorite team, Holland is in the competition. After yelling and cheering for hours for Holland, Wang developed a very sore throat.

Suggestion: When one's favorite team scores, don't scream or cheer loudly if you are watching the game at home. It will hurt your throat and can even lead to bronchitis. Besides, your yelling will disturb neighbors.

Eye problems

A person suffering with dry eye should not watch soccer matches overnight. When watching a game, people do not blink their eyes as often as they normally would, which can lead to more serious problems. For a near-sighted person, spending a lot of time watching nighttime soccer games can harm his or her eyes. Lengthy overnight television viewing may also trigger a glaucoma patient to have a seizure.

People with eye problems should make sure their eyes get enough rest. If you must watch an important game, remember to move your eyes off the screen every 15 minutes.

Lack of sleep

Example: Li Xin got up at 7 am on Tuesday but only got two hours sleep after watching two soccer matches the previous night. He was very tired. On his way to work, he was involved in car accident. Luckily, he was not seriously injured, but his car was a write-off.

Suggestion: People do not sleep well during daytime hours and sleep less deeply than they would at night, which slows their thinking and makes them more likely to fall asleep. Being sleep-deprived can also affect how your body processes blood sugar, and that could raise your risk of diabetes. Depression and sleep are closely linked. While depression can cause sleep loss, sleep loss can lead to depression. In fact, some researchers believe that a cause of postpartum depression is sleep deprivation.

To guarantee enough sleep, some sports fans adjust their work and rest schedules to coincide with European time. Male soccer fan Han Qing started adjusting his timetable and body clock days before the games and tried to sleep more before the match started.

Heart attack

Example: A Croatian sports fan died of a heart attack in Klagenfurt's fan zone just before the group B game in which his country was taking on Germany, AFP reported last Friday. The man, 20, collapsed in the city center and was resuscitated by a police officer at the scene but later died in hospital.

Suggestion: Psychological stress and anger are documented triggers of heart attacks and bring about an increase in cardiac arrests during sports competitions.

Sudden deaths are known to occur at highly emotionally-charged events such as the Euro Cup penalty shoot-outs.

Viewing a stressful soccer match more than doubles the risk of an acute cardiovascular attack. In view of this excess risk, particularly in men with known coronary heart disease, preventive measures are urgently needed.

Patients with severe cardiac disease that are likely to become overly excited during a game should not watch the event or should do so calmly. Do not drink, do not ignore any dietary restrictions and do not bet on the games.

Maintain an indoor temperature of around 26 C and ensure good ventilation.

Hangover

Example: For many soccer fans, alcohol is a necessary companion for the Euro Cup. However, many overindulge and wake the next morning with a terrible hangover.

Suggestion: Drink a lot of water. Alcohol dehydrates your body, and drinking plenty of water will help combat all of your unpleasant hangover symptoms, rehydrate your body, and flush out the waste.

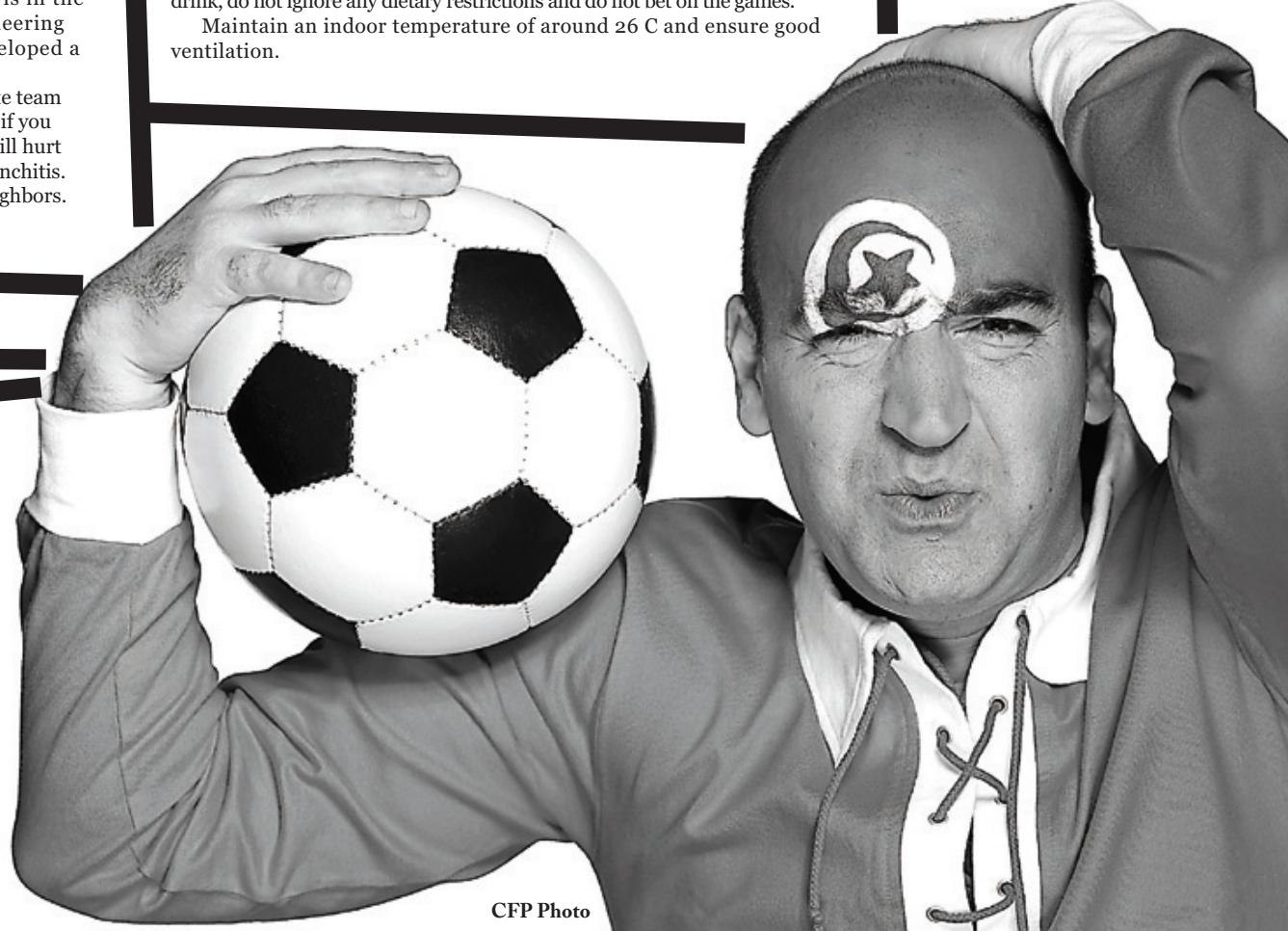
A symptom of too much drinking that may haunt you the next morning is a pounding headache. To treat this painful side effect, try drinking herbal tea, which can help reduce head pressure. Fruit juice is also a good cure because it is high in vitamins and nutrients that were depleted by the diuretic effect of the alcohol.

The best plan is prevention. Control your drinking to guarantee better health the next day.

Poor posture

Having poor posture while watching the games can cause other health problems like back and neck pain.

Bad posture can also affect your muscles. During commercial breaks, take a rest or walk around and get a little exercise.



Heart of imperial education open to the public

Guozijian Street, Beijing's only street with complete pailou, decorated archways, reopened to the public last Saturday for the third Cultural Heritage Day.

As part of the street's reopening, the Confucius Temple and Guozijian, the imperial college during the Yuan (1271-1368), Ming (1368-1644) and Qing Dynasties (1616-1911), also reopened as the new Confucius Temple

and Guozijian Museum after a three-year renovation effort.

One 20-yuan ticket gets visitors entrance into two famous architectural sites in the capital.

The new Confucius Temple and Guozijian have retained their historical structures and put out exhibitions on Confucius, the history of the imperial examinations and Guozijian.

Guozijian Street, also known as Chengxian Street, has the most complete collection of pailou in the city. There are four colors of wooden pailou from Qing Dynasty in the street. The Confucius Temple and Guozijian were established in Yuan Dynasty and together represent the core of Chinese cultural tradition and the highest order of imperial education.



Guozijian Street is Beijing's only street with complete pailou.

The highest educational administration and college Guozijian

Established in the Yuan Dynasty, Guozijian was the heart of China's highest educational administration and its college from the 1200s to the end of the Qing dynasty in the 20th century. Qing emperors lectured there following their coronations, and their ministers and scholars would stand outside to listen. For the partially deaf, officials who stood beside the emperor would repeat everything he said in a loud voice.

It also served as an advanced research institute for top researchers and scholars, including many from foreign countries. In the 20th century, author Lu Xun, worked Guozijian to catalog, clean and sort its books.

Piyong Hall, the main hall of Guozijian, stands in a courtyard lush with ancient trees. The hall was designed and built to duplicate an image from a legend of deities lecturing in a hut on a small island. One of the two wells in a pavilion at Guozijian's entrance still fills the pool with water.

Rooms in the west courtyard formerly served as Guozijian classrooms. They now house Beijing Youth Library, a place where many middle school students gather to read or do homework.

The Temple of Confucius occupies a large part of the grounds of Guozijian. Emperors in the Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties regularly conducted ceremonies to honor Confucius in the temple's Dacheng Hall, or Great Achievement Hall. Ten stone drums from Qianlong's reign still stand at the Dacheng Hall.

Where: Guozijian Street, Andingmen Nei Dajie, Dongcheng District



Dacheng Gate is the second gate in the Confucius Temple after its entrance, the Xianshi Gate.

Sacrifice to Confucius Confucius Temple

The temple used to be the place where emperors offered sacrifices to Confucius during the Yuan, Ming and Qing Dynasties. It was repaired several times in different dynasties, though it still retains its Yuan style.

The Temple of Confucius was built in 1302 and additions were made during the Ming and Qing dynasties. It is the second largest temple constructed for Confucius, the great thinker and teacher of ancient China, ranking only behind the Temple of Confucius in Qufu, Shandong Province.

This temple consists of four courtyards. The main structures include the Xianshi Gate (Gate of the First Teacher), Dacheng Gate (Gate of Great Accomplishment), Dacheng Hall (Hall of Great Accomplishment) and Chongshengci (Worship Hall). Dacheng Hall is the main building in the temple, where the memorial ceremony for Confucius

was often held. There are 198 stone tablets positioned on both sides of the front courtyard. The tablets record the names of 51,624 Jinshi graduates of the Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties. Another 14 stone stele pavilions of the Ming and Qing dynasties contain precious historical information.

One item of note is the 700-year-old Chujian Bai (Touch Evil Cypress) in the temple. Its name is associated with an ancient legend. During the Ming Dynasty, superior official Yan Song came to worship Confucius on behalf of the emperor. When he was passing by the cypress, one of the branches of the tree took his hat off. Since Yan Song was a treacherous official, people said the old tree could distinguish between good and evil people.

Where: Guozijian Street, Andingmen Nei Dajie, Dongcheng District



Part of the exhibition in Guozijian shows what a private school in Song Dynasty (960-1279) looked like.

Spirits of heaven and earth

Huodezhenjun Temple (The Taoist Temple of Huode God)

Last Saturday, Huodezhenjun Temple opened to the public for the first time. The temple is a Taoist temple for worship of the Zhenwu Emperor, the spirit of heaven and earth.

The temple, located on Dianmen Wai Dajie, was built during the Zhenguan period (627-649) in Tang Dynasty (618-907). The period's emperor Li Shimin stressed that his people needed rest and health. He implemented many new policies in politics, economy and culture. His reign was the high point of Tang Dynasty, and the Huodezhenjun Temple was quite popular.

Architecture in the temple is mostly covered with glazed tile. Pailou decorate the interior and exterior by the temple entrance. Most preserved temples in the city, including Dongyue Temple, Baiyun Temple, Confucius Temple and Yonghegong Lama Temple, all have pailou. Some are opposite to the temple entrance and others are in nearby streets. The pailou in Huodezhenjun are different because they are located both inside and outside the entrance.

Where: No 77, Dianmen Wai Dajie, Xicheng District
(By Jackie Zhang)



Huodezhenjun Temple

CFP Photos

Naples is seated on the coast by the Gulf of Naples halfway between two volcanic areas: the volcano Mount Vesuvius and the Phlegraean Field.

Take in the Neapolitan sights



The site of Pompeii

Only volcano in Europe

Mount Vesuvius

Mount Vesuvius is the only volcano on the European mainland to have erupted within the last hundred years.

Its most infamous eruption came on the morning of August 24, 79 AD, a great noise was heard in the area around Vesuvius. A mushroom-shaped cloud of gas and volcanic rocks rose high in the air, darkening the sky. A storm of cinders, ash and rock fragments covered Pompeii, adhering to the forms of the bodies and to the folds of the clothes. It looked as though a spell had been cast to freeze all life.

Visitors to Pompeii should not miss the Amphitheatre, which was used for gladiator battles and big enough to host 20,000 spectators when it was built around 70 BC. The Large Theatre, built in the 2nd century BC, and the Stabian Baths are also worth visiting.

Typical products of the area are fish, lava stone, coral jewelry and Cameo brooches still produced in ancient workshops.



Villa del Casale, a well-preserved Roman villa in Sicily.

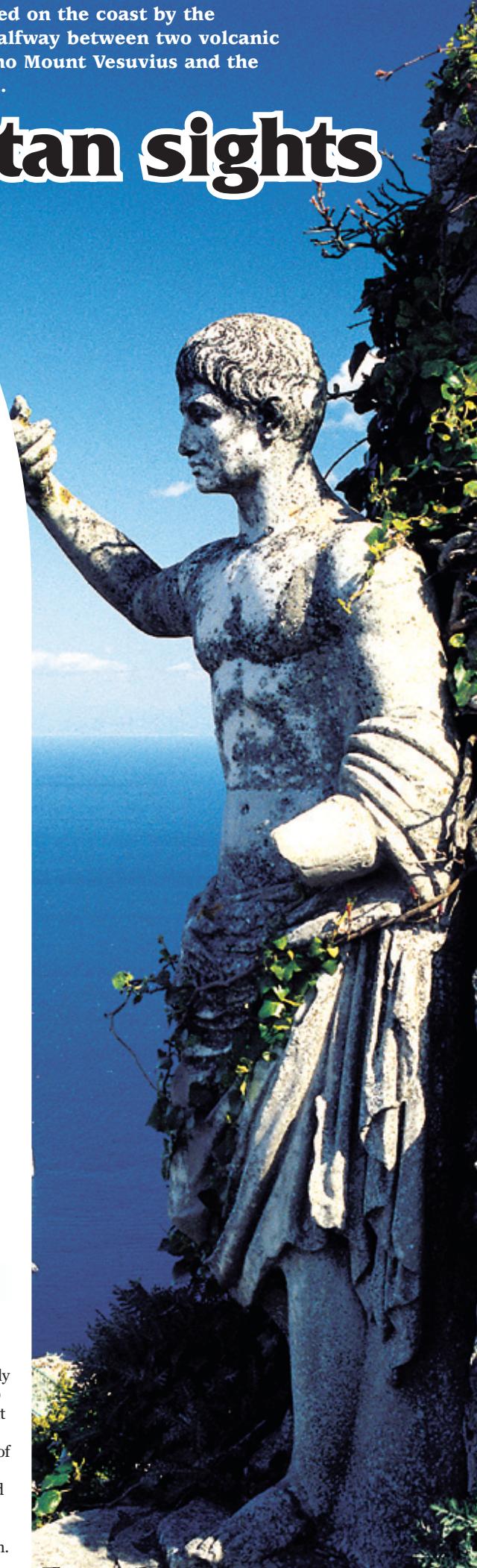
Created by volcanoes

Phlegraean Fields

Campi Flegrei, also known as the Phlegraean Fields, is created by volcanic eruptions dating back to a million years ago. The name Phlegraean Fields is derived from the Greek word phlegraios, which means burning and highlights the volcanic activities of the everlasting Solfatara.

One of the most outstanding cities of the area is Pozzuoli. Its Amphitheatre Grande is the third largest in Italy. It could accommodate up to 20,000 spectators. The underground corridors are perfectly preserved and show the complicated mechanisms required to keep the wild beasts before they were sent up to the arena.

Many lakes in the area originated from the craters of extinguished volcanoes. Lucrino Lake is well known for its oysters. The nearby submerged city of Baia is a magical place to visit if you like diving. The largest of the Phlegraean Lakes is Fusaro, which features a refined rococo residence (Casina Vanvitelliana), where the king could enjoy himself with hunting and fishing activities.



The most striking offshore rocks soar up to 109 meters out of sea in Sorrento.

Prehistoric village

Nola

In ancient times, the area around Nola was known as Campania Felix because of the extreme fertility of the soil, the constantly good harvests and the beauty of its rich vegetation. The small prehistoric village was abandoned quickly by its occupants at the time of the Avellino eruption between 1700 BC and 1600 BC. Their pottery and other artifacts were left behind to survive with the imprint of buildings in the mud from the eruption.

Festivals and cultural events are organized throughout the whole year. One of the most popular festivals is the celebration held every year on the first Sunday following June 22, known as Festa dei Gigli (Festival of the lilies). It is dedicated to San Paolino, who protected many children of the town during the waning years of the Roman Empire.

Acerra, one of the most ancient cities of the region, has an excellent museum. A section of the museum is dedicated to the mascot of Naples, Pulcinella, a lovely, loud but smart glutton.

Grotto along the coastline

Sorrento

Sorrento's name comes from the Latin word for mermaids. Sailors said mermaids hid in the Mediterranean Sea ever since their failure to seduce Ulysses. The town overlooks the bay of Naples

with many fantastic viewpoints which allow visitors to see Naples itself, Vesuvius and the island of Capri.

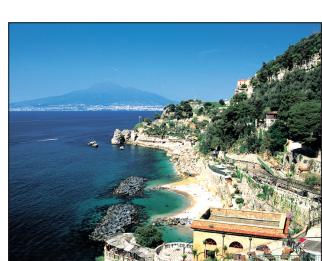
Ever since Imperial Roman times, Sorrento has been a holiday destination for its diver-

sified landscape of terrace gardens, mountains and steep cliffs. Ancient and modern villas offer dramatic views, and small centers with their rural architecture are the most appealing features of this area.

The real must-see of the island is the Grotta Azzurra (blue grotto), named for the blue color of the water. It was discovered in 1826 and has helped to draw artists, writers and film and TV celebrities.

Sorrento is known not only for the majestic views of its coastline, but also for the city's tradition of inlaying wood, a process which became popular in the first half of the 19th century.

(By Zhou Xuan)



The BSC methodology for applying and improving leadership

By Michael Allison

In my previous article I discussed the importance of companies in China assessing the leadership abilities of their staff as well as providing regular training to develop future leaders and continuously assist staff members in developing these important qualities and skills. This is vital because of the rapid pace of change that is continually facing today's corporations.

A very effective tool that is being used by some Chinese companies to develop their leaders and foster a learning environment is the BSC (Balanced Scorecard) methodology. BSC was developed by Harvard University Professor Robert Kaplan and consultant David Norton. In 1992 they published their first article on the subject. They made a breakthrough in strategic management and strategy execution. The BSC methodology includes both strategy and the action detail for implementation of the strategy. The leadership model which fits BSC covers three primary areas: strategic leadership, implementational leadership and interpersonal leadership. In these three areas BSC provides the foundation on which leadership can be built, applied and improved.

First, strategic leadership action

determines the organization's direction. It involves defining the mission, vision and values of the company. It is also concerned with gathering data, analyzing, making decisions and communicating with the rest of the organization. Strategic leadership takes into consideration the long term objectives of the organization. "Clarifying the direction of change is important because people disagree on direction or wonder whether significant change is really necessary. Strategic leadership removes these obstacles to change, John Kotter says.

The BSC methodology includes SWOT analysis, identification of target markets and the value proposition to those markets. As senior managers discuss, analyze and make decisions, they form a consensus regarding the most feasible strategy for their organization. Within this process, the senior management team is developing strategic leadership skills and fostering a learning environment.

Next, we have implementational leadership which creates the systems and processes to execute strategy. Included in this would be analyzing areas within an organization that are in need of improvement and developing solutions that invoke improvement. Problem solving, decision

making, solution design and action planning are all part of implementational leadership.

Finally, there is interpersonal leadership. In China, this involves three areas, each of which requires good communication skills:

1. Guanxi – this involves relationship building on an individual basis by means of trust, fairness and credibility. Developing and enhancing interpersonal leadership skills by means of trust is what leads to influence.

2. Influence – is fostered by *guanxi*. It includes communicating with individuals in the organization in a manner that persuades them of the relevance, to them personally, of the message being communicated. Influence is necessary in order to cultivate a culture of commitment on the part of employees towards the organization's mission, vision and core values. However, in order to maintain commitment, a third factor is required.

3. Tracking and feedback – This involves the gathering of data in order to know where individuals are at with regard to personal as well as organizational objectives. Tracking also identifies current problems as well as the level of performance of individuals. This then leads to feedback, which is a key part of the coaching process,



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the purpose of which is to help individuals elevate their level of performance. Tracking and feedback is vital in order to help maintain a high level of motivation within the organization. When staff are highly motivated, they will naturally move towards improving their performance.

It can be seen that the BSC methodology encompasses a comprehensive leadership model, including strategic, implementational and interpersonal leadership. Companies that have used the BSC methodology in order to execute their strategies have, at the same time, fostered an environment where staff at all levels develop and improve their leadership skills. This is an extremely valuable benefit of using the Balanced Score Card.



Michael Allison is Corporate Training Manager of ClarkMorgan

Dining

Aprevino

Rub shoulders with the glitz and glamour of the city in the outdoor Zen garden, where a delightful Italian snack buffet and two special Aprevino drinks will hit the spot in the swish alfresco atmosphere.

Where: the Westin Beijing, 9B Jinrong Jie, Xicheng

Open: 7-10 pm, June 27

Cost: 100 yuan (per person), 10 percent discount for group of 10 or more. All prices are subject to a 15 percent service charge.

Tel: 6629 7815



Water Buffalo

The Buffalo at Lotus market has a good view of Qianhai Lake. Nostalgic Shanghai-style decorations mix with refined western cuisine. A Cuban band performs every evening.

Where: Buffalo, 5, 6 and 7, Lotus Market, Shichahai, Xicheng

Cost: 350 yuan

Tel: 6617 1666

Outdoors

Three Falls Valley Loop hike

On this hike you will get excellent views of the Great Wall and surrounding mountains. The pool at the foot of the main waterfall is surrounded by flat rocks that make a naturally perfect place to take a rest and soak up the sun.

Where: Meet on the ground floor of Starbucks (Jiangtai Lu, Lido Holiday Inn)

When: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, June 21

Cost: 300 yuan

Tel: 13910025516
(reservations are essential)

Chengde Imperial Mountain Resort

Chengde Imperial Mountain Resort, located in Hebei, is a vast complex of palaces, administrative and ceremonial buildings, as big as the Forbidden City and the Summer Palace combined. It absorbs the culture, art and architecture of different groups. In 1994, it was added to the Unesco World Heritage List.

When: Drive to Chengde on June 21 morning and drive back on June 22

Cost: 1,650 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041
(reservations are essential)

Nightlife

Wang Wei Concert

Wang Wei is named as the landmark artist of rock's new era in China. In 2006, his first album, *On the Road* was launched. This year, his second album, *Devil's Call* was produced by musicians from China, Europe and the US.

Where: New Get Luck Bar (Haoyun), A1 Xingba Lu, Nuren Jie, Chaoyang

When: 9 pm, June 20

Admission: 40 yuan

Tel: 8448 3335

Aviation

Emirates launches special promotions online

To celebrate the launch of its new Guangzhou-Dubai route on July 1, Emirates has announced the launch of multiple special offers for its customers.

Booking your flight effective from July 1 to September 27 at emirates.cn, passengers traveling Economy Class can enjoy a number of exciting promotional fares and packages.

From Guangzhou to Dubai flying economy class, the price is just 4,750 yuan, to other destinations in the Middle East, 5,230 yuan, to Europe and Africa, 5,700 yuan. Moreover, the introductory fares to the Middle East, Africa and Europe also include a free stopover in Dubai for a maximum of 30 days. All prices quoted are for round trip fares and fuel taxes.

To avail of these special offers, the tickets must be purchased from now to June 30.

(By Li Jing)

If you have any info for this page, please send it to lixiaojing@ynet.com

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Gan Tian at gantian@ynet.com.



CFP Photo

Much ado about Dutch

By Charles Zhu

Robert was my landlord who lived on the ground floor with his girl friend. We tenants, all singles, resided in the rooms on the second and third floors with a common living room and a kitchen. He told me that he was a computer scientist by profession. However, in the evening when I was reading in my room, I more often than not heard him singing German opera arias as a baritone, accompanied by his girlfriend on piano. We had high respect for him, but did not like him because he always wore a long face and was prone to talking about anything in a condescending and patronizing manner. He was strict and well disciplined and could not tolerate bad habits.

One evening, Dave told me, "The Dutch uncle came up this afternoon."

"Who's the Dutch uncle?" I asked.

"Robert."

"What's the matter? Did someone not pay him the rent?"

"Not that," Dave said. "He complained that we were too raucous during the Super Bowl last night. He warned us that we should not come back too late on weekends because it disturbed his sleep."

From then on, I always believed that Robert was Dutch.

One day, I met him in the garden. He was planting some beautiful daisies in a flower bed. I called to him, "Hi, Robert! You've got such a nice professional voice. It was really very moving."

"Thank you for the compliment. As a man of German descent, I love German music."

German? Didn't Dave call him a Dutch uncle? He had to be Dutch, not German.

"He is indeed a German," Dave told me when I put this question to him. "You know, my dear Chinese friend, when we say 'Dutch uncle,' it does not necessarily mean that the person is Dutch. Dutch uncle is a term for a person who utters frank, harsh, and severe comments and criticism to educate, encourage, or admonish someone. Thus, a 'Dutch uncle' is a person who is rather the reverse of what is normally thought of as avuncular or uncle-like individual showing invariably indulgent and permissive characteristics."

"What is the origin of the expression?" I asked.

"Back in the 17th century, when the English and Dutch were building their global empires, their intense rivalry brought about a wide range of popular sayings invented by each country to insult the other. Another possible origin may be the marriage of the Dutch William of Orange to the English woman Mary II, in the late 1600s. When the English and Dutch navy was combined during this period, the English sailors regarded the Dutch with some resentment, and called the unwanted advice or orders from Dutch sailors purportedly as coming from 'my Dutch uncle.'"

"Is it positive or negative in meaning?" I said.

"I'm not sure. The term, 'Dutch uncle' can refer to a person who is brutal in his frankness but also someone who is kind with his advice. Pay attention to the context at any rate. Dutch uncle is as positive or negative as its user intends it to be."

I later learned that there are others expressions that contain the word "Dutch" that have curious meanings as well. 'Getting into Dutch' means getting into trouble while 'going Dutch' means sharing the bill with a friend."

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please take a picture and send it to gantian@ynet.com together with your name and address.

Piano teacher intercourse

By Derrick Sobodash

Translators of text into dead languages have one major advantage in their work that their modern language counterparts lack: dead languages don't change. With no living speakers, the language gains no new words and its words never change meaning.

That pitfall ensnared the translator of this textbook's title, "Piano Teachers' Intercourse Book."

Intercourse means the communication between two individuals. Whether the translator meant this as communication between the book and the teacher or the teacher and the student is up for grabs.

The problem is that these days, intercourse more often refers to its second meaning: sex in all its many forms. If a news story says that a student and a teacher engaged in intercourse, it's a safe bet that the two were having a bit more than a friendly chat. Whether the "conversation" took place in a classroom or on a bed is something better answered by the pornographer who was filming it.

To avoid this surprise, a safer bet would have been to simply call it a "course book." Academic classes are regularly referred to as courses, and many teachers refer to the supplemental texts as "course books."

A perfect substitute would be "Piano

Teacher's Course Book 1," though whether this slight tweak would enhance or diminish sales probably depends on where the book is filed.

**Blacklist**

Beijing Today has come up with Blacklist, a new column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then this page is your new best friend. Watch it for each week.

Local professor: Zhu Shida

1. Keep company her

The writer of this sentence may be thinking that "company" is a verb. It is not. In idiomatic English, the set phrase for this idea is to "keep somebody company." The correct way to say it is: "Keep her company." "Company" here is a noun. You may also say: to bear company, to fall into company with somebody or to give somebody one's company. When it means disassociation, you may say: part company.

2. 140 items were exhibited at the exhibition

The problem with this sentence is rhetorical. Though it is grammatically all right, it is not good English sentence structure to repeat words with the same root. To make it sound better, you may say: "140 items were displayed at the exhibition."

3. Youth students

Youth means the quality or state of being young. It is a collective noun denoting a given group of people. When you say "a youth magazine," it is perfectly all right. The noun "youth" is used as a modifier modifying "magazine." However, in this particular case, it seems very queer to have youth modify students. You may say "young students," but never "youth students."

Native Speaker: Joe Edwards

1. Keep company her

As hard as I have tried I have failed to find any sense in this sentence. I believe what the writer is trying to say is that he or she is sharing time with another person. If that is the case, there are many ways to present that idea. Allow me to offer a few, "Keep her company," "Accompany her," or possibly, "Keep company with her." The writer of the example phrase is trying to use "company" as a verb. It cannot be done. The only way you can turn the word, "company" into a verb is to add an "ac" at the beginning of the word and change it to "accompany," then you can accompany this woman anywhere she desires.

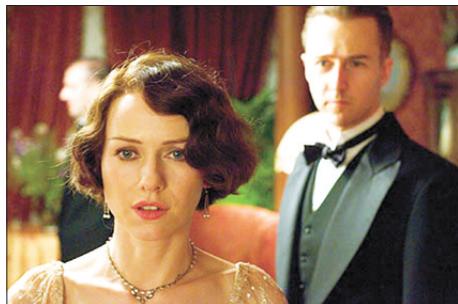
2. 140 items were exhibited at the exhibition

Grammatically, this sentence passes the test but if you want to be a journalist or professional writer, you will have to change a few words and the structure of the sentence. You have stumbled slightly into the world of redundancy by using two words of the same origin in one sentence, "exhibit" and "exhibition." Find a synonym for "exhibit." For example, "displayed" or "presented" or possibly, "spotlighted." The sentence could read, "140 items were displayed at the exhibition." Any journalist will tell you that placing a figure like "140" at the beginning of a sentence is showing poor writing form. If you want to stick with a numeral, you must place that figure within the sentence somewhere but not at the start or, if you want to keep the number at the beginning of the sentence, you have to write it out in words. There were 140 items displayed at the exhibition." or "One-hundred and forty items were displayed at the exhibition."

3. Youth students

These two words cannot be placed together for a few reasons. First of all, "youth" is a noun and cannot be used as an adjective to describe students. You could use it to describe a thing like a "youth project" or a "youth club," but never "youth students." You can say "young students" and that will be correct.

The painted veil (2006)



Scene 1:
In the living room, Walter wants to inform Kitty of his decision.

Kitty (K): What are you doing home?

Walter (W): I'm sorry. There's something I need to speak with you about.

K: Actually, I was just about to take my bath.

W: I'm afraid it's rather important, darling, can't wait. Sit down. Do you know a place called Meitanfu?

K: No.

W: Well, it was in the papers the other day. It's a small town on a tributary of the Yangtze River, in the interior. They've had an outbreak of cholera there. It's the worst epidemic anyone's seen in a long time. The Chinese medical officer has died. There's a convent of French nuns and they're trying to run the hospital and they're doing the best that they can, but people are dropping like flies. I have volunteered to go and to take charge⁽¹⁾.

K: Why?

W: Because they need a doctor.

K: But you're not a doctor. You're a bacteriologist.

W: I'm an MD⁽²⁾. The fact that I'm foremost a scientist is actually all for the good⁽³⁾ in this case.

K: Won't it be awfully dangerous?

W: I suppose it might, yes. Now, Meitanfu is a 10-day journey. You can go by rail for the first part of it, but after that it's carriage and then we'll have to take a sedan chair⁽⁴⁾.

K: Who's we?

W: Why, you and I, of course.

K: You're not expecting me to come, too?

W: I hoped that if I was going you would want to go.

K: Surely it's no place for a woman. It would be madness for me to go. Why should I?

W: To cheer and comfort me?

K: No. No, I won't go. In fact, it's

This is a movie about love and duty. The cholera epidemic in troubled times helped Walter and Kitty find true love, something that never happens during idyllic times. Their inner selves are not revealed until catastrophe strikes. Kitty discovers her true love for Walter when they are separated because of a cholera epidemic. What seemed so far away was actually within reach. It might have been a very different story though if they had never gone to Meitanfu.

Synopsis

Kitty, an upper-class woman who lives in London in the 1920s, gets married to a taciturn man who works in Shanghai so as not to be an old spinster and to escape from her acrid mother. She has little affection for her husband Walter and falls in love with another after they relocate to Shanghai. When her husband learns she has had an affair, he volunteers to fight a cholera epidemic in China's war-torn interior. The pain suffered by the dying people and the couple's failing marriage makes them experience all sorts of new emotions. Will a cure be found for both before it is too late?



monstrous of you to even ask me.

W: Fine. Then I shall file my petition⁽⁵⁾ for divorce tomorrow. I'm afraid that you have thought me a bigger fool than I am.

K: I don't know what you're talking about.

W: Don't you? I am divorcing you for adultery. I am naming Charles Townsend as your lover.

K: I'm sorry, Walter. I realize this is very unpleasant, but, please, let's not make this uglier than it needs to be.

W: By all means⁽⁶⁾. What is it that you propose that we should do?

K: You could let me divorce you quietly.

W: You divorce me? On what grounds⁽⁷⁾, may I ask?

K: That's what a gentleman would do.

W: Can you give me one reason I should put myself to the smallest inconvenience on your account⁽⁸⁾?

K: Please, Walter, don't be so hateful. We didn't mean to hurt anyone. But ... Charlie and I have fallen in love. He wants to marry me.

W: Really? I knew that you weren't the cleverest girl in the world ... but I didn't know that you were actually a fool.

K: Yes. Well, if it makes you feel better to hurt me, then go ahead. But you might as well⁽⁹⁾ get used to it.



We love each other. And we're sick to death of the secrecy and compromise and all the rest of it.

Scene 2:

The couple reaches Meitanfu and a custom officer comes to welcome them.

Mr. Waddington (Mr. W): Anyone for a cocktail? Here's luck.

Walter (W): I was told I might get some help from the local army officer. Colonel Yu, is it?

Mr. W: Good luck with him. He's not fond of us British. Listen, I'll warn you, things are pretty dicey⁽¹⁰⁾ even out here. I'm afraid that if the cholera doesn't get us, the Nationalists might. I tried to get those nuns to go, but they refused. They all want to be martyrs⁽¹¹⁾, damn them.

W: And why have you stayed?

Mr. W: I was posted here, simple as that. I was shocked to hear you'd volunteered.

W: Opportunity for research, I couldn't pass it up⁽¹²⁾.

Mr. W: Yes, and you? I don't suppose you've come to Meitanfu for the research.

Kitty (K): My husband's the scientist.

Mr. W: Indeed. Did you have any reaction to the inoculation⁽¹³⁾? You have been inoculated?

K: Yes, of course. No guarantee.

Mr. W: The Watsons were inoculated; it didn't do them much good.

Scene 3:

Walter and Kitty talk about their inoculations but because of their frustration, they decide not to vaccinate.

Walter (W): I'm going to town in the morning to have a look around. I expect you'll want to rest. I can inoculate you in the evening.

Kitty (K): Will you be doing it yourself?

W: No, I don't think so.

K: You needn't bother with⁽¹⁴⁾ me then.

W: Suit yourself⁽¹⁵⁾.

K: Tell me, Walter. Is it a long, drawn-out⁽¹⁶⁾ affair, dying of cholera?

W: No. All of the fluid goes out of you in the first 36 hours.



Vocabulary:

1. Take charge: to assume control or command.

2. M.D.: Doctor of Medicine

3. All for the good: very useful

4. Sedan chair: an enclosed chair for one passenger carried on poles by two bearers, commonly used in the 17th and 18th centuries.

5. File a petition: in this context, to present to a judge a written request for separation from spouse.

6. By all means: Definitely.

7. On what grounds: for what reasons

8. On one's account: on one's behalf

9. Might as well: it would be better to

10. Dicey: dangerous or tricky

11. Martyr: a person who suffers greatly or dies for a cause or belief

12. Pass it up: refuse to accept, to abandon

13. Innoculation: a vaccine given as a precaution against contracting a disease.

14. Bother with: to worry about

15. Suit oneself: do things at one's will.

16. Drawn-out: relatively long in duration

(By Zheng Lu)